



THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Spring 2009

AMANDA WRIGHT LANE TO BE HONORED



Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright and trustee of the Wright Family Foundation, is recipient of the 2009 Trailblazer award presented annually by Aviation Trail, Inc.

Her selection by the ATI Board of Trustees recognizes her dedication as an untitled ambassador for the Dayton area's early aviation heritage which began with her ancestors, the Wright brothers.

Thursday, April 16, and the Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Dr., Kettering, Ohio, are the date and place of the award presentation. The social begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 6:45 p.m. The public is welcome and the cost is \$40 per person.

For reservations--by Friday, April 10--send your check with entrée choice (beef, chicken or vegetarian) to Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409.

Mary Ann Johnson, aviation historian and author who received the Trailblazer Award in 2008, will present the award followed by representatives of greater Miami Valley aviation groups who will summarize Amanda's work for their organizations.

Amanda supports more than a dozen aviation groups or events--nationally and internationally--with an enthusiasm and dedication that enhances their prestige and mission and her reputation for unselfish volunteerism.

As a Wright family spokesperson she consults with researchers and academics who are working to preserve the legacy of the Wright brothers, gives lectures on her family's history, and works with state officials in both Ohio and North Carolina to raise

awareness for the two national parks in the United States that tell the story of the Wright brothers.

One of those parks, the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Amanda supports as a liaison to the Wright Family as three of its four park sites are intimately tied to the aviation work of the Wright brothers.

The Wright Family Foundation of The Dayton Foundation, which in several ways supports the preservation of aviation history related to the lives of the Wright brothers, is Amanda's vehicle for helping aviation groups financially. Since its inception in 1960 the foundation has donated approximately \$1.4 million to 12 aviation-related organizations.

In 2008 Amanda was asked to attend two sessions at the Ohio Statehouse, representing the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA), to help plan for the an aviation aerospace commission so that Ohio may be known as the "aerospace state."

She is actively involved with Aviation Trail, Inc., and the National Aviation Hall of Fame, and currently serves on the boards of NAHA; Dayton History; Wright-Dunbar, Inc.; Wright "B," Inc.; Engineers Club of Dayton; First Flight Foundation (in N. Ca.) and is an honorary chairman of both the Le Mans Sarthe Wright 2008 Centennial Committee, and Pau Wright Aviation--both in France.

Amanda's travels also took her to Brazil in 2007 to lecture and meet the grandnephew of Alberto Santos-Dumont who, like the Wright brothers, constructed early lighter-than-air and heavier-than-air powered flying machines at the turn of the century.

In 2005 Amanda was named one of Dayton's Top Ten Women and in 2008 received NAHA's Ivonette Wright Miller Award for volunteerism in the field of aviation and aerospace.

Also in 2008 the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics recognized her with its Public Service Award for "outstanding contributions to the aeronautics industry on national and international levels and for dedicated efforts to preserve aviation history through education and outreach."

Amanda was graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. As a volunteer she has founded three children's educational and social programs for her community's schools in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she resides with her husband Don.

They have two children: a son Brenden, a Stanford University graduate now employed in Palo Alto, Calif., and a daughter Meredith, currently a doctorate student in physical therapy at Ohio State University.

The Trailblazer banquet and award ceremony commemorates Wilbur Wright's April birthday (April 16, 1867) and has been held annually by ATI since 1983. ATI is a non-profit organization which seeks to preserve and promote the Dayton area's unique aviation heritage.

AVIATION TRAIL WELCOMES NEW DAHNHP SUPERINTENDENT

On March 18 Aviation Trail, Inc. hosted a reception at the ATI Visitor Center for Dean Alexander, the new superintendent of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The event gathered park employees, partners and supporters in the Dayton area who will be working with Alexander. ATI President Marvin Christian welcomed the guests and said that ATI--speaking for all the groups there--looks forward to working with Alexander.

Alexander assumed his duties March 15 after having served eight years as superintendent of the Hopewell Culture NHP near Chillicothe, Ohio. He succeeds Larry Blake who retired from the position in December 2008.



Dean Alexander

Acting supervisor for the DAHNHP before Alexander's arrival was Mark Weekly of the National Park Service's River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

While Alexander was at Hopewell Culture, the site was nominated in conjunction with the Ohio Historical Society's Fort Ancient and Newark Earthworks to the Tentative List

for World Heritage status. The Dayton Aviation Park also is included on the World Tentative List.

A native of San Diego, Calif., Alexander is a 22-year veteran of the Park Service who began his career as an outdoor recreation planner in the service's Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia, Penna. He then accepted a transfer to the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha in 1988 to lead the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program.

His promotions there placed him as chief of the Planning Branch, then chief of the division of Planning and Environmental Quality for the Midwest Region.

In 1995 Alexander became superintendent at Kalaupapa NHP, Kalaupapa, Hawaii, primarily known as the historic, isolated settlement for Hawaii's victims of leprosy. He returned to the Midwest in 2001 to take his previous assignment at Hopewell.

Alexander was graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor of arts in geography, and continued graduate studies in geography there. Before beginning his career with the National Park Service, Alexander also worked for the state of Florida as an air photo interpreter mapping barrier islands in Florida.

The Experimental Aircraft Association, and the National Air and Space Society, which supports the National Air and Space Museum, are included in his memberships.



Dean Alexander (left), new superintendent of the DAHNHP, speaks to reception attendees March 18th at the ATI building.

Courtesy of Timothy Gaffney

NEWS FLASH

Hawthorn Hill and the Wright factory buildings—both in Dayton—became part of the National Park Service's Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park on March 30th. The authorizing bill was signed by President Barack Obama with Amanda Wright Lane participating at the White House.

The U. S. House of Representatives passed the proposal March 25, 2009, and the U. S. Senate had passed it Jan. 15, 2009.

IDDINGS FOUNDATION \$20,000 GRANT TO BENEFIT HAWTHORN HILL

The Iddings Foundation has awarded a \$20,000 grant, through the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, to the Wright Family Foundation for a study of the historic furnishings and treatments of Hawthorn Hill. The study's report will describe the Wright-era interior appearance of the home, a National Historic Landmark in Dayton, where Orville Wright lived from 1914 to 1948.

The furnishings study also will propose recommendations to recreate that appearance through the use of Wright-era furnishings and treatments. Hawthorn Hill's current décor, except for Orville's study, was dictated by NCR Corp's desire to use the home as a guest house. (NCR purchased the house upon Orville's death in 1948 and transferred its ownership to the Wright Family Foundation in 2006.)

The Wright Family Foundation wishes the home to more closely resemble what Orville knew during his years there and to comply with National Park Service standards and practices since it intends to donate the structure to the NPS.

Many of the historically correct furnishings and treatments for Hawthorn Hill are still in the structure or in Dayton-area collections. These--along with reproductions of pieces important to the ambiance of the Orville Wright era--will ensure an authentic rehabilitation of the interior.

2ND ANNUAL REEL STUFF FILM FESTIVAL HELD

March 12-15 marked the dates for the 2nd annual Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation in Dayton produced by the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Again this year 13 reels featured flight and people-of-flight classics, documentaries, and features with introductions by a producer, writer, cinematographer, stunt pilot or Academy Award actor. Attendance topped 1,200--much better than last year.

Ron Kaplan, NAHF executive director, is the originator of the festival. The festival's presenting sponsors were Netjets, with additional support from Airmail Greetings and Think TV.

Proceeds from the festival benefit the NAHF Learning Center.



Ron Kaplan (left), Cliff Robertson, and Clay Lacy (right) at the Reel Stuff reception and silent auction held at the Dayton Convention Center

Courtesy of NAHF

HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES FOUR IN CLASS OF 2009

Four inductees into the National Aviation Hall of Fame were announced at the Dec. 17th commemoration of the Wright brothers' first flight.

The event, hosted by Aviation Trail, Inc. and the NAHF, was held at the National Museum of the United States Air Force and also included naming the 2009 Milton Caniff "Spirit of Flight" awardee.

In the Class of 2009, to be enshrined at the July 18th dinner and ceremony in Dayton, Ohio, are:

- Eileen Collins, U.S. Air Force test pilot and first female Space Shuttle commander
- Russell Meyer Jr., former chairman and CEO of Cessna Aircraft Company
- the late James M. Stewart, World War II bomber pilot, award-winning actor and airpower advocate, and
- the late Edward H. White II, West Point graduate, U.S. Air Force test pilot, and Gemini and Apollo astronaut.

The "Spirit of Flight" award will be awarded to the Apollo astronaut crews for their role in enabling man to walk on the lunar surface and return safely to earth. The NAHF enshrinement celebration is often called "America's Oscar Night of Aviation." For ticket information, call 937.256.0944 ext.10, or go to the web site: www.nationalaviation.org.



PARTY PLANNED FOR 100th ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHTS' HOMECOMING FROM EUROPE

In 1908-09 Wilbur and Orville Wrights' flying demonstrations wowed European aviators--and the general public--at Le Mans and Pau, France; Rome, Italy; and, in the U.S., at Ft. Myer, Va.

They were, in the words of author Tom Crouch in *The Bishop's Boys*,

"...the first great celebrities of the new century. No newspaper or magazine seemed complete without a story on the three Americans. (Katharine and Orville had joined Wilbur in France in January 1909.) The popular appetite for images--photographs, sketches, caricatures, and motion pictures--was insatiable."

So it was somewhat belatedly decided by citizenry of their hometown, Dayton, Ohio, to honor them upon their homecoming--they arrived in Dayton May 13--and the party was planned for June 17-18. The programs were lavish and honors were heaped upon the brothers (see accompanying story/image).

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of that celebration, local citizens and organizations are planning special events to honor the flyers. Mark your calendars for these noteworthy happenings:

--The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and Wright-Dunbar Village are hosting activities June 20 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at 16 South Williams St.: music, an ice cream social, a printing demonstration, children's activities, and a neighborhood home tour from 1-3 p.m. for \$5.00. Expect a flyover of the Wright "B" look-alike at 1:00 p.m. and a smaller, non-flyable version of the Wright "B" on a "homecoming" float. The celebration focal point is the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and Aviation Trail Visitor Center, the corner of West Third and Williams streets.

--Lectures by Public Historian Mary Kay Mabe, adjunct instructor at both Sinclair Community College and Urbana University. Ms. Mabe, who has a master's degree from Wright State University, will speak on the Home Days Celebration at the Dayton Metro Library on Tuesday, June 9, and the Engineers Club June 16.



Dayton school children formed a human flag for Wrights' Home Days Celebration in 1909.

LOCAL EAA CHAPTER 48 NOW 50 YEARS OLD

The local Chapter 48 of the Experimental Aircraft Association--based at Moraine Air Park--is now 50 years old, having celebrated its anniversary in December at the Engineers Club in Dayton.

During the festivities an authentic copy of Orville Wright's No. 1 pilot's license was "presented" to Paul Poberezny--via a conference-call phone connection--as the founder of EAA and the person who delivered Chapter 48's charter 50 years ago. Unfortunately, ill health prevented his accepting the pilot's license in person.

The revered certificate was delivered to Poberezny personally, however, in February by EAA Chapter 48 President Brad Templin during a leadership conference at the EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wis. There the document will be located in the new wing of the EAA Air Venture Museum.

DAYTON THREW A BIG PARTY FOR THE WRIGHTS' 1909 HOMECOMING

The Wrights' big party began with their arrival from Europe in Dayton May 13, 1909, when thousands of well-wishers greeted them at the train station. However, the real festivities were set for June 17-18: the Wright Brothers Homecoming Days Celebration.

According to Tom Crouch in *The Bishop's Boys*, "the great carnival included receptions, spectacular parades, band concerts, and fireworks featuring pyrotechnic portraits of Wilbur and Orville intertwined with the flag, eight feet tall. Bishop Wright delivered the invocation at the ceremony on June 18."

In that ceremony at the fairgrounds the brothers were presented with medals from the U.S. Congress, the State of Ohio and the City of Dayton--recognition, however belated, of their flight accomplishments. The backdrop: a living American flag formed by Dayton's school children.

We've reproduced a photo here for a flavor of the party atmosphere that Wilbur and Orville's hometown bestowed on them. While it was, indeed, a celebratory hiatus for the brothers, they left the city the following day for Ft. Myer, Va., to assemble an aircraft to fly acceptance flights for the U.S. Army; it became known as Signal Corps Airplane No.1.

ISUS PROJET BUILDS “HISTORIC HOMES” IN WRIGHT-DUNBAR NEIGHBORHOOD

Watch this spot!

Better still, “Watch these spots!” could be the new mantra in the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood on Hawthorne St. and Mike Sell’s Way.

Thanks to a cooperative project led by ISUS Corp., a charter school at 140 N. Keowee St. in Dayton that trains at-risk high school students, students are building historically correct, but modern, “green” replicas of the family homes of five American aviation pioneers in that neighborhood. A sixth structure will look like the Menlo Park laboratory house of Thomas Edison.

Each house will feature distinctive “green technologies”—such as solar panels—to conserve or generate energy. The five family homes are those of Wilbur Wright, inventor with his brother Orville of powered flight; Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to become a licensed pilot; Amelia Earhart, first woman to solo across the Atlantic; John Glenn, first American to achieve Earth orbit; and Neil Armstrong, first man on the Moon.

While the emphasis in the homes is on energy savings, their construction should tap into technologies and products developed and produced in Ohio. Solar panels, for example, will be used in the Menlo Park structure and Toledo, Ohio’s, First Solar company is a major manufacturer of such panels.

Just as important as green technology is the training the project will give the students who work on the \$2 million construction sites. The effort will give them an advantage when they enter the job market. Ann Higdon, president of ISUS Inc., has said that because of the innovative technologies the students work with, they will have an edge over workers trained more traditionally.

Partners in the project include the University of Dayton where professor Dr. Joseph Castellano asked 16 MBA students to apply and study the Japanese “Toyota Way” principles to the ISUS advanced manufacturing operation. That collaboration also resulted in some ISUS students entering college early at Sinclair Community College, a partner in the project.

Other ISUS project partners are the city of Dayton, General Electric, Home Depot, the Rotary Club of Dayton, and the Clay Mathile Family Foundation which donated \$1.6 million for automation of building panels production.

Spring 2010 is the target date for completion of the first houses which will be open to the public before they go on sale. ISUS’s students also have rebuilt homes in the Dayton neighborhoods of Rubicon and Wolf Creek.



This is the ISUS-Thomas Edison house being built on Hawthorne Street in Dayton, Ohio, as part of a project led by ISUS Corp., a charter school. The zero-energy structure will be a replica of Edison’s laboratory house in Menlo Park, N. J. In the front door, left to right, are Mark Sumner, ISUS site instructor; Randy Rhoades; and Adrian Harris, ISUS students.

A lot is happening this spring in the aviation heritage world! To bring all of it to you, we’ve delayed our story on the McCook Field exhibit in the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum. Look for it in the next “Wright Flyer.”

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR DIAL AND DISCOVER

Make a note.

There’s a new phone number--937.401.9985--for Dial and Discover, the National Park Service’s cell phone audio tour for local Wright brothers and aviation history sites. Prompt numbers for the sites also have changed; listed below are the updated numbers:

- 1 Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center
- 3 The Wright Cycle Co.
- 4 7 Hawthorne St., the Wright family home
- 8 1127 W. 3rd St., former location of the Wright brothers’ last bicycle shop
- 10 15 N. Broadway, Orville Wright’s laboratory site
- 11 Paul Laurence Dunbar House
- 15 Carillon Historical Park
- 20 Wright Seaplane Base
- 27 Wright Memorial, public access on W-PAFB
- 28 Huffman Prairie Flying Field, public access on
- 29 W-PAFB

WACO MUSEUM AND LEARNING CENTER RECEIVES \$500,000

This spring there will be a groundbreaking at Historic WACO Field just south of Troy, Ohio. The Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission has approved funding of some \$500,000 for expansion and improvement of the WACO Museum and Learning Center.

Plans call for completion of the project in time for a grand opening at the annual WACO fly-in Sept. 18-19, 2009. Executive Director of the WACO Historical Society Karen Purke said, "We are delighted to have this opportunity to expand our capacity and services for the people of Troy and Miami County."

WACO will build a 6,000 square-foot addition to the museum and learning center as well as upgrade the museum entrance and provide a paved parking area.

KIDS' CORNER

--Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m.-3 p.m. Hear the Wright family's employee Carrie Kayler--aka National Park Service Education Technician Karen Rosga--tell what it was like to work for the Wright family when she was only 14 years old in 1900. The job lasted 50 years and she'll share her remembrances of the family members during those years. The location is the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, 16 S. Williams St.

--June 19, 20; July 10-11; Aug. 7-8; 2 p.m.--4 p.m. "Will and Orv as Printers" printing demonstrations. Watch a ranger demonstrate the tedious process of printing in 1890 in the very room the Wright brothers used, on the second floor of the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center.

Sunday, June 28, "Let's Go Fly a Kite" Famous Kite Flyers Through History: Children of all ages are invited to come and learn how the Wright brothers first learned to fly using kites and how scientists and experimenters have used kites throughout history to further advance the science of machine-powered flight. The location is the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center.

--Saturdays July 11, 18, and 25 Free Art in the Park sessions hosted by the DAHNHP and the K12 Gallery in Dayton. Children in kindergarten through 6th grade can use their creative imagination, creativity and talent in these sessions at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. Pre-registration is required. For a registration form, call Judi Hart at 937. 225.7705 or e-mail judi_hart@nps.gov. Participants must be signed in by an adult on the day of the activity.

DAHNHP NEEDS YOU TO VOLUNTEER

Remember the U.S. Army recruitment poster with Uncle Sam pointing at you--a potential volunteer?

Well, replace "Uncle" with Smokey the Bear and you get the message,

The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park wants--no needs--you to volunteer in the park for the summer and fall.

Specifically, you'd be an Interpretive Assistant at either the Wright Cycle Company Complex at West Third and Williams streets or the Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B.

Help is especially requested for this year's Oct. 5 commemoration on the prairie of the Wrights' successful demonstration of practical flight. Parking attendants for that event are particularly needed because about 2,000 attendees are expected.

Specifically, you would

- wear the National Park Service volunteer uniform properly
- greet visitors
- connect visitors with the meanings of the place
- provide information and orientation
- operate radios and cell phones
- sell Eastern National bookstore items
- maintain appearance of exhibits with regular cleaning and maintenance
- research complex questions and/or refer visitors to a correct source
- record visitation statistics
- keep abreast of current resource issues and know the park and its resources
- observe and report unsafe conditions, resource damage, problems etc. to a staff member

Most work would be performed inside, but there would be some short-distance roving on the grounds between buildings--and some exposure to heat and cold. For more information, contact the park's Mandy Murray at 937.255.7705.



SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM

The National Museum of the United States Air Force on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has two especially noteworthy events, among several, scheduled in May and June.

On May 15 treat the family to a Night at the Air Force Museum, It's a free, after-hours event where you'll see, hear and experience history as exhibits are brought to life, cockpits are opened and you can view the movie "Night at the Museum 2." Two free IMAX films, "Flyers" and "Destiny in Space," also will be shown. The hours are 6-10 p.m.

Freedom's Call Military Tattoo--the fifth annual event--is scheduled for June 26 behind the Air Force Museum and is hosted by Air Force Materiel Command and Wright-Patterson. The tattoo will feature live music by the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight and special guest and country music star Aaron Tippin. Also look forward to flyovers, a military drill, historical narration and fireworks to commemorate World War II. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. and the event begins at 8 p.m., Bring a lawn chair or blanket and your camera.

For more information on either event--and other activities at the museum--log onto www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/news&events/ or call 255-3286.



Welcome New Members

New Life Members

Larry W. Crump
Vinitia Crump
Phil Roberts

Supporting Members

Frank Winslow

Contributing Members

W. Tim Edwards

Individual Members

Cy Byrd
Davis Duntz

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 16--ATI's Trailblazer Award Ceremony and Banquet at the Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering. Amanda Wright Lane will be presented with the Trailblazer Award for her support to many aviation-related groups in the Miami Valley, and North Carolina. Reservations must be received by April 10. See front-page story for details.

May 15--Night at the Air Force Museum The museum is keeping its doors open until 10 p.m. for a special evening featuring two free IMAX films and the film "Night at the Museum 2." Bring the family for a rare, after-hours treat. Free.

June 26--Freedom's Call Military Tattoo Head for the area behind the National Museum of the United States Air Force for live music, flyovers, military drills, historical narration and fireworks to commemorate World War II. The event begins at 8 p.m. Free.

July 18-19--Vectren Dayton Air Show at Dayton International Airport. This year the show features the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and presents the Brazilian Air Force Smoke Squadron. Tickets, discounted, will be on sale at all Dayton area Kroger stores--with Kroger card--starting June 8.

ATI MEMBER SARAH BYRN RICKMAN TO SPEAK ON WASPs CONTRIBUTIONS

Sarah Byrn Rickman, a member of Aviation Trail, Inc. and a former reporter and columnist, will speak on the Women's Auxiliary Squadron Ferry Pilots (WASPs) on July 16, 7 p.m. at the Engineers Club, Dayton.

Ms. Rickman is the author of several books on women in aviation, a free-lance writer, a former reporter and columnist for *The Detroit News* and editor of the *Centerville-Bellbrook Times*. Her presentation will focus on the valuable contributions the WASPs made toward the successful conclusion of World War II.

The talk is one of three in the 2009 Aviation Heritage Speakers Series, hosted by the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. For more information, call 937.255.7705 or 937.425.0008.



Spring 2009

www.aviationtrailinc.org

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REMINDERS

*** ATI Trailblazer Dinner and Award Ceremony—April 16, 2009—Presidential Banquet Center**

***DAHNP Centennial of the Wrights' Homecoming Celebration — June 20, 2009**

***Vectren Dayton Air Show —July 18-19, 2009 —Dayton International Airport**

AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100	(May be paid in five annual
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 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