Great Stone Viaduct celebration taking shape

Scheduled in Bellaire on Saturday, Sept. 28

BELLAIRE -- The GSV Society announces that two well known speakers to Baltimore and Ohio Railroad enthusiasts have agreed to participate and present lectures at the Great Stone Viaduct Celebration scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013. Both will continue in the tradition begun last year of providing scholarly material relating to the railroad history of the upper Ohio Valley.

John Teichmoeller of Ellicott City, Maryland, will return to Ohio to give a morning presentation on the Rail Marine Connections at Bellaire. John is closely associated with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Historical Society, and is coordinator of the Rail Marine Information Group (RMIG) which concentrates on vessels, terminals, and the operations relating them to railroads. He has written articles for the "Sentinel" published by the BORHS, and contributed to the "Keystone" of the Pennsylvania Railroad Historical Society. An avid model railroader, John has a track layout in his basement representing 7 miles of the old B & O mainline. He also models with emphasis on building rail marine models. John will speak on "Rail Marine Connections at Bellaire, Ohio."

For the afternoon session, the well known and published author, James Dills, will be on hand to present a lecture titled "Connections Bellaire in the World of Bridges."

Jim is no stranger to B & O enthusiasts. His monumental work published in 1993 titled The Great Road: The Building of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, has become the resource guide for information on the nation's first railroad. An architectural and railroad historian, he has authored books about the architecture and cast-iron buildings of Baltimore, Maryland, and is presently working on a book capturing the railroad architecture of the United States and Canada. His knowledge as an independent scholar and writer on railroad architecture makes his appearance here in Bellaire, home to the "Great Stone Viaduct," greatly anticipated.

Also participating this year will be the East of the River Shawnee, a band of the Shawnee Indians who are descended from Shawnee once inhabiting what is today the State of Ohio. This band will set up their trading village and selling handmade items to the public. Along with the tribe will be the Chief Snow Owl and the Women's Chief Autumn Buffalo, who will lead the tribe members in illustration of dances for the public.

Also being planned is a steam whistle festival as another attraction for the outdoor portion of the GSV Society celebration. The event is planned to take place on the interior curve of the Great Stone Viaduct behind the former Bellaire Clinic now operated by Wheeling Hospital. Sponsors for this portion of the event are Maroon Enterprises and Wheeling Hospital.

YOGI WALLACE of Bellaire, a well known local railroad modeler of G Scale models, will be on hand to give modeling demonstrations of the techniques that he has perfected over 50 years of modeling using the materials used to construct them. Joining Wallace will be John Bowman of Wheeling, who is known throughout the Ohio Valley as the master of steamboat modeling. John has built 43 steamboats over the past 6 years for private collections and museums, and has just recently completed "The Eliza H" depicting the sternwheel vessel once owned by famed Bellaire resident Jacob Heatherington. This steamboat was named after his beloved wife, Eliza Heatherington, whose likeness appears in the old Greenwood Cemetery over looking Bellaire. The boat was piloted by one of Heatherington's sons and used in coal operations from the Heatherington coal mines. Bowman has written 3 books on steamboats, including his most recent book Steamboats on the Western Rivers in the Civil War.

The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society is proud that it can provide a forum for historical education by tapping into the knowledge of these speakers, performers, modelers, and historical presenters and participants.

Charter memberships will be available through April 30, 2013, as the first year of the organization comes to a close. Anyone wishing to become a Charter Member of the GSV Society must do so prior to this deadline to insure their Charter Membership. This membership provides them with the watercolor print of the first year of the organization, and will permit continued discounts and priority to all events sponsored by the Society. Applications are available online at www.greatstoneviaduct.org, or may be picked up at Frizzi Law Offices in Bellaire.

AEP reliability up

GAHANNA, Ohio -- Customers of AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), experienced an overall improvement in the frequency and duration of electric outages in 2012. In its annual reliability standards filing to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), AEP Ohio report...