



# BFAA JOURNAL

BROWNVILLE FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION • FALL 2020

ART - MUSIC - NATURE - HERITAGE

## Caroline “Carie” Allen – volunteer extraordinaire

By *Mary Lauber*

It was the summer of 1972 when I first met Carie. It was at a concert at the Brownville Methodist Church which at that time was the “Concert Hall” for the Brownville Summer Music Festival. She and her husband, Fred, were regulars every Sunday afternoon during the four weeks of the Festival. She started bringing a tablecloth, lemonade and cookies for all to enjoy after the concerts during those hot summer weeks.

The Summer Music Festival was sponsored by Nebraska Wesleyan University, and the faculty was made up of Wesleyan faculty members, of which my husband John and myself were, at that time. I was named director and had to do a lot of administrative work. To take some of the “load” off, I asked Carie if she would mind serving as treasurer for the Summer Festival. She accepted immediately and that was the beginning of a long and endearing friendship between the two of us. Since Carie and I were both teachers, we shared many commonalities from that day on.

Carie’s husband Fred had the idea of starting a group of singers called the Brownville Family Singers. Fred and Carie and their two boys, Fred and Charles, our daughter Martha, John and I, and of course Joseph, who was a baby. Many times John had to hold him while we sang because he had stranger fear. We invited another family or two to sing with us and we “toured” around southeast Nebraska singing at churches and some events. Those days were so much fun.

After the grant ran out for the Brownville Summer Music Festival, Carie segued into becoming the treasurer for the Brownville Fine Arts Association (BFAA). She very adequately and meticulously served as treasurer for BFAA until her death.

After her “retirement” from teaching, she took care of the BFAA’s Schoolhouse Gallery. She came over every weekend and served as curator and hostess. She met many tourists and told them numerous interesting stories and



facts about Brownville and its history. Many people remarked about that “wonderful lady they met at the schoolhouse” and how interesting and gracious she was. In addition to serving as treasurer for BFAA she was the membership chairman as well. Many times members received personal notes from her when they joined BFAA.

The last time I saw Carie was a week before she died. She walked from the Schoolhouse two blocks to the Lyceum and we had lunch together. When we parted she said, “Now I am going home to die.” She walked back to the Schoolhouse, got in her big red Cadillac and drove home. One week later to the day she left us all.

A few hours after her death, her grandson posted “We lost a giant . . . We need more Mrs. Allens in the world.” I say **LOTS OF LUCK!** You will have to look a long time to find another one.

### FROM STUDENT TO CO-EDITOR

I was a student in Mrs. Allen’s vocabulary class at Auburn High School in 1977. I graduated that year, and our paths didn’t cross again until 1989. I was working at the Atchison County Mail and Mrs. Allen brought a newsletter to be printed. That was the beginning of a 30-year relationship as we worked together on both the Brownville Historical Society’s *Bulletin* and the Brownville Fine Arts Association’s *Journal* many years.

Carie was a joy to work with. She was relentless with her red pen (ever the teacher) and generous with praise: “I think this is our best one yet.”

She truly was a volunteer extraordinaire – doing so much in this little corner of the world. (Space does not allow a complete listing.) And it astonishes me that she was still taking care of BFAA business, writing checks and paying bills just a few days before her death. She continued her spirit of volunteerism with one last request: “spend some time picking up trash in her honor.”

Let us all “Carie” on in any way we can.

– Lori Shaw (*Carie’s Co-Editor*)

# Message from the President

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has not been the year we had planned for and Brownville Fine Arts Association misses you. We plan to make it up to you next year.

The arts are so important to our lives . . . they have been everywhere around us since the beginning of time. All of our senses find pleasure in some form of art: our sight (when we see a piece of work an artist has shared or experience nature that touches our soul), touch (when we feel the softness of a flower petal or gently rub the piece of pottery that another person's hand has molded), hearing (the sound of music that transcends all humans or listening to a speaker share his knowledge and inspire us), and smell and taste (when the fresh apple pie is taken from the oven and you take the first bite). Art affects us and we grow richer.

Whatever form of art you enjoy, it helps to shape your ideas and provides well-being. It improves our lives. Let's face it, art makes us happy. During this pandemic, living in our fast-paced world with social unrest, let the arts provide you moments of peace and solitude, alone and with others. **See something beautiful every day.** Laura Ingalls Wilder said, "The true way to live is to enjoy every moment as it passes, and surely it is in the everyday things around us that the beauty of life lies."

Your support helped us celebrate a successful season in 2019 and the plans we had for 2020 will happen in 2021, plus more, even better. We value and appreciate your support so please continue to help us financially by joining BFAA or volunteering or any other way that works for you. Follow our Facebook page for updates. And promise us that you will continue to keep in touch.

With peace and love,

*Peggy Groff, BFAA President*

## *Cicadas*

Sweating summer nights,  
fevered castanets erupt.  
Sex and cicadas.

Jan Chism Wright  
9/13/99



**CICADA**  
by Jill Lokke

## The Secret Life of Cicadas

A chance encounter with  
A carcass on a sidewalk.

Bit of bark glued to gossamer wings.  
I know you, not by sight but sound,  
fevered castanets on summer days,  
white noise, static on the radio.  
In spring I catch a glimpse of you,  
Evidence of life led underground.  
Backless, sheer and leggy shells grip  
bases of barns and bottoms of trees.  
Seventeen year out of sight or sound  
Until time to metamorphose, to mate,  
stealthy still but raucous in rebirth.

A chance encounter with  
the secret life of cicadas.

Jan Chism Wright  
9/8/99

# Native Plants Are for the Birds . . .

. . . and butterflies, and bees, and other important creatures

If you enjoy birds in your yard, at your feeders, and nesting nearby, a healthy population of insects will help attract them and keep them around. Even seed-eating adult birds feed bugs to their babies to support their incredibly rapid growth. In order to have enough bugs for the birds, the habitat must be able to support them.

But bugs?!? Who wants more bugs? Insects are critical to the world's ecosystems as first level herbivores. As pollinators, they are essential to about 85% flowering plants, including many food crops.

In all the vast world of living things, only plants can produce food, converting water, carbon dioxide, and sunlight into carbohydrates. First level herbivores consume plants for energy. People often think of rabbits, deer, cattle, and sheep as herbivores, but overlook a huge part of the vast food web: herbivorous insects. The herbivorous insects, in turn, provide food for other invertebrates (including predator insects), fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Native plants have evolved to be suitable for a specific habitat. They have evolved together with insects, birds, mammals and all the other creatures in an area. The native insects recognize native plants as the food they need, but may not recognize non-native plants, even if they are similar. Non-native plants are popular in our landscapes for many reasons, including their resistance to insects when planted outside their native range. That is because most herbivorous insects only eat plants with which their species evolved. The same plants support many times more herbivorous insects when they grow in their native areas. Plants that are not native to an area seem insect-resistant because the insects that have evolved to use them as a food source do not live in the new area.



**LADYBUG LARVA**



**ASSASSIN BUG  
(WHEEL BUG)**



**PRAYING MANTIS**



**DRAGONFLY  
(photo by Diana Dickkut)**

Native plants support many times more insects and other animals than imported ornamental varieties frequently used in modern landscaping. If increasing the number of birds in your yard sounds like a good idea, try adding some native plants to feed the birds' food.

Attracting plant-eating insects for the birds may seem like a bad idea but nature, when in balance, helps keep things manageable. When the newly planted milkweed in the Furnas Arboretum Pollinator Garden seemed hopelessly infested with aphids, ladybug larvae showed up to save the plants, being voracious predators who eat – you guessed it – aphids.

Another helpful predatory insect is the assassin bug, also known as the wheel bug. As their name implies, they feed on other insects. They don't harm people, unless handled, so admire them where they are, and leave them to their work of eating garden pests.

A large insect-eating insect that is helpful in the garden is the praying mantis. Again, it can be unpleasant if handled but isn't interested in hurting people, so just watch its antics and let it consume the insect pests in your garden.

Dragonflies can be startling and look scary, but not only do they not bite, they eat the bugs that do bite, such as mosquitos and midges. Their small cousins, Damselflies, also eat small flying insects. When dragonflies and damselflies swoop through your yard and garden, thank them for their valuable service, and don't be afraid; they cannot hurt you!

SOURCES:

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/insects-feed-baby-birds/>

Tallamy, D.W. 2007. Bringing Nature Home. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press.

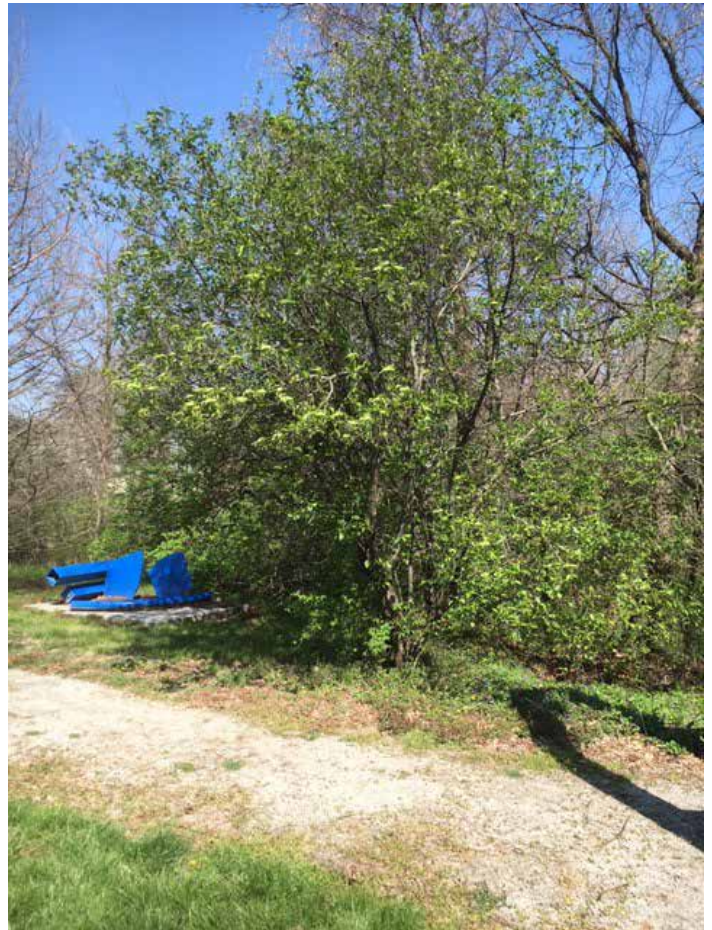
# Furnas Arboretum Highlights

The Governor Robert W. Furnas Arboretum in Brownville sponsored its annual tour of the Arboretum this year with a self-guided tour. Due to COVID-19, there were no formal activities this year. The public was invited to explore and enjoy a self-guided tour of the arboretum. New for guests is a detailed graphic map of the property.

With the help of supporters Justin Evertson, Rachel Anderson, Ashley Rexroth, and Austin Arens from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, arrangements were coordinated with John Lauber and Ruth Keene to use the information Brownville Fine Arts Association previously had and design a new up-to-date informational guide for visitors. The project began late March and continued into April. Also assisting with the tree inventory were Rich Hayek and Jill Lokke. The spreadsheet includes trees and shrubs nestled in

the Governor Furnas Arboretum. There are many native plants and trees growing along the Whiskey Run Creek nature trail which connects the west edge of the village to the Steamboat Trace Trail, near the Missouri River. Last year a pollinator garden was added to the Arboretum and the Rohman Garden is currently being built on the north side of the Schoolhouse Art Gallery. The bridge south of the Schoolhouse has been repaired, cleaned, and coated with a sealer. The bridge project was partially funded by the Brownville Community Foundation.

With the need of people to be in nature during the pandemic, the Furnas Arboretum has been an integral part of Southeast Nebraska. Improvements and upkeep continue on the trail and in the arboretum as a service to all.



**The Nannyberry Viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*) is #60 on the new map of the Arboretum. According to Ky Rohman, this particular tree/bush fell into the Whiskey Run Creek during the summer of 1993 when there was an excessive amount of rain in the Brownville area. It came from the extreme southwest corner of the arboretum where Nannyberry Viburnum had been planted. One of the results of this event was to change the channel of the creek, moving it farther to the south so that it would not continue to encroach into the arboretum.**



Bill Robbins of New Earth Pottery created nature sculptures along the Whiskey Run Creek Nature Trail this summer. The nature art below was created by Roxanne Vacek between 3rd & 4th Streets. COVID hasn't hampered creativity in Brownville!



**Mark Your  
Calendars!**

## **Annual Meeting & Dinner for All BFAA Members**

**Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020**

**at Schoolhouse Art Gallery**

*(In case of inclement weather,  
we will meet at the Lyceum)*

- 4:30 p.m. Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Social Gathering
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner (Details Below)
- 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Steve Woerth  
(Open to public)

Dinner is being catered by The Lyceum.  
Reservations are required.  
Cost of the meal is \$10 before October 3  
or \$15 after that date.

*If you would like a vegetarian option,  
please indicate it when you send your check.*

Please make checks payable to BFAA  
and mail to  
BFAA • P. O. Box 4 • Brownville, NE 68321

Call Peggy at 402-414-2082 if you have questions.

# BFAA *Memories*

## AROUND BROWNVILLE



**Ky working in the Arboretum, 1991.**



**Arboretum workers, 1992**



**Bob Sage and Carl Rohman, 2008**



Explore Brownville and discover the quilting blocks around town. This project was spearheaded by the Brownville Fine Arts Association with cooperation and participation from members of the Brownville community and with special thanks to former residents, Don and Margaret Hoffmeyer. There are 19 unique quilt blocks on various barns, homes and buildings in Brownville easily seen by walking or by car.



The Rohman Bridge was refurbished this summer. Come by and check it out!

# Brownville Jazz Retreat

Greetings Brownville Family,

I hope this note finds you healthy and safe as we all work to craft a way forward for our organizations and business in the coming year. I would like to take an opportunity to update you on Brownville's newest organization – the Brownville Jazz Retreat (BJR). I want to start by thanking the Brownville Fine Arts Association (BFAA) for its continued support as the BJR continues to grow.

After the success of our Jazz Festival & Focus last summer, my partner Dale Dickkut and I realized we need to expand our reach by putting a team in place to bring in fresh ideas and talents. We are enormously grateful to welcome Peggy Goff in Sponsorship and Community Engagement, Charity Zimmerman in Marketing and Public Relations, and in the role of Grant Writing and Donor Relations, Deborah Soli.

The BJR Jazz Camp will take place the week of June 21, 2021. We have set our focus on drawing jazz students, teachers and lovers from our surrounding region. Exceptional jazz faculty is key, and we are so excited to have found world renowned jazz artists right in our own backyard who will help us continue to grow the footprint of jazz in Brownville.

The curriculum for 2021 will be special one. As we concentrate on the musical communication and connection of the participants. We will use jazz itself as a foundation to teach the importance of those sustained links on and off the band stand.

Some of you may ask. "What about COVID-19? Will it affect in-person learning?" We are aware that the landscape of safety and education is changing rapidly. Therefore, it is important that we are prepared for any and all possibilities. We are simultaneously planning an in-person and virtual camp, so depending on what the landscape looks like, we will be prepared to deliver an exceptional music education experience.

In conclusion, I ask for your continued trust as I steward this organization to a bright and sustained future. We will continue to keep you updated on our plans, progress, and events.

We ask for your ongoing support as we move forward to create something special and representative of Brownville's historical contribution to the arts in the region.

Regards,  
Tammy McCann, Executive Director  
Brownville Jazz Retreat

## Outdoor Painting Demonstration



**Brownville Fine Arts Association hosted an outdoor painting demonstration July 4th near the Schoolhouse Gallery and Arboretum. Rich Hayek, local artist, demonstrated his talents and love of nature. The finished artwork is pictured below.**



## Volunteers



**Jan Chism Wright (above, left) weeds in front of the Schoolhouse Art Gallery. John Lauber (above, right) sprays weeds along the Whiskey Run Creek Nature Trail. Many volunteers contribute their time and talents to BFAA projects.**

# The Rohman Garden

## *The Legacy of Carl “Ky” Rohman*

Brownville has been blessed over the years by Nebraskans from other parts of the state who recognized the rich history and value of this little town on the river and encouraged its preservation and development. When Willa Cather visited in 1894, she described Brownville as, “a once busy, decaying town.” In 1956, artist Terence Duren urged its citizens to, “do something with Brownville,” which fostered the founding of the Brownville Historical Society and the Brownville Fine Arts Association and many others. Luckily in the 1970s, Ky Rohman, a Lincoln businessman and avid art collector, and his wife Lorraine were drawn to Brownville. Rohman was, for decades, a primary supporter of the Sheldon Museum of Arts and helped found and develop the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) in Kearney.

He was a strong advocate for opera, both Opera Omaha and at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a driving force in the merger of the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra and Lincoln Symphony into the Lincoln Orchestra Association and was responsible for much of the development of the historic village of Brownville. “If there’s a person who has had more impact on the arts in Nebraska, I don’t know who it would be,” said former Sheldon director George Neubert, who worked closely with Rohman at Sheldon and in Brownville.

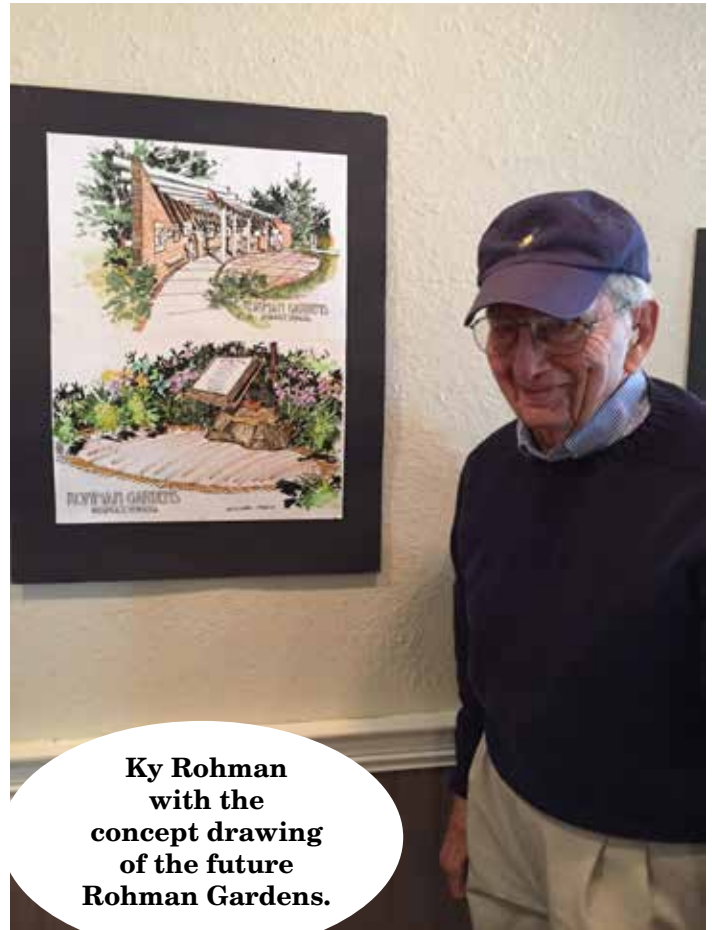
Rohman was born in Lincoln and grew up two blocks south of the State Capitol and remembered the Capitol being built in the 1930s and roller skating on its concrete floors before permanent flooring was installed. He graduated from the Phillips Exeter Academy prep school in New Hampshire before returning to the University of Nebraska for his undergraduate education. He enrolled in the University of Nebraska College of Law.

But his education was interrupted by World War II, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

After finishing law school, Rohman joined his family’s linen supply business, Sanitary and Towel Laundry Co. While growing the business, he was active in a number of national industry organizations.

Rohman’s dedication to the arts began in tandem with his first wife Lorraine, who in the 1970s served on 10 boards related to the arts in Lincoln, Omaha, and Brownville. Defining himself as the “partner, co-host and helpmate” of Lorraine in a 1991 interview, Rohman moved onto many of the boards and into more public activism following her 1988 death. He was joined in that effort by his second wife, Jane. They received the Governor’s Arts Award Partner in the Arts (Thomas C. Woods, III) in 1994.

Rohman was honored for his support of Sheldon in 2005 with the naming of The Rohman Family Gallery, the first space a visitor enters in the museum’s second-floor permanent collection galleries. A gallery at MONA



is also named for the Rohmans. “Rohman and his family are distinguished by a keen interest in and discerning appreciation of American art, the passion to share it with others and a commitment to the Sheldon,” Nebraska Art Association president Bob Nefsky wrote in the *Journal Star* in 2005. His generosity of spirit extends to the new generation of collectors and art enthusiasts, encouraging them to pursue their passion.”

The next year, Rohman and wife Jane received the distinguished NEBRASKALander Award for services to the state’s social, historical, cultural or economic well-being, the award citing their support for Sheldon, the Museum of Nebraska Arts (MONA) in Kearney, Metropolitan Opera regional auditions, the Meadowlark Music Festival and many important Brownville projects.

His involvement in Brownville began in 1972 when the Rohmans bought and began restoring the Cogs-well House (1868) on the bluff overlooking the Missouri River. Local Brownvillians were surprised that a Lincoln businessman would roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty doing a lot of the work himself. His mother-in-law, Mrs. LeMar, previously had bought the Muir House and had begun renovations. It ended up being owned by the



Keenes who brought it back to its original Victorian elegance.

The Rohmans continued to buy historic homes and lots in Brownville. They bought and restored the Abbott House (1863), home of the first telephone operator. They moved the Saltbox House (1865) from next to the winery to its present location and restored it. They bought and restored the Gates House (1859). The Rocket House at 408 Water Street was moved from east of the Muir House and housed architect in residence John Schmidt who designed the distinctive turret that the Rohmans added. In 1990, Ky and Jane moved the Thompson House (1860) from the corner of 6th & Main Street to 412 Water Street, greatly expanded it with period architectural salvage and turned it into a bed and breakfast before converting it to a private residence.

The property for the Firehouse was donated by the Rohmans with the stipulation that it be a historic design. The development of Capital Square in 1976 was promoted and aided by the Rohmans who located grants from the Woods Foundation and Game & Parks along with Kenton Wheeldon. In 1977, Brownville Builders was formed by the Rohmans, Jane and Randel Smith, and Kenton Wheeldon to build a row of retail shops in Brownville to expand the business base. Kenton Wheeldon related a story about Ky from back in the 1980s. One icy winter day, Ky was trying to deliver a just-baked cake to Kenton's house but could not make it up the 6th Street hill. The truck slid backward down the road, flipped over, and landed in water. Ky had to escape out of the truck's sliding rear window.

Back in 1972, the Brownville Fine Arts Association bought the Schoolhouse at 428 Main Street from Red Childers who had originally moved the building to Brownville in 1956 to be an antique shop. In 1977, they bought the remaining lots on Main Street surrounding the schoolhouse. In 1991, Brownville was among 29 Nebraska communities selected to qualify for funds to develop an arboretum. Ruth Keene, another BFAA Board Member, found out about grant monies available through the Peter Kiewit Foundation to fund these arboretums and took it to the BFAA board and John Lauber, who wrote the original grant.

The endeavor was spearheaded by Ruth Keene, Ky Rohman, and John Lauber with assistance provided by Nebraska Statewide Arboretum staff Landscape Architect Kim Todd in designing the general arboretum plan. Ky Rohman personally selected the trees and plants, spending \$20,000 for them. Then he and his son Carl planted every one of them. The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum gave the Jim Kluck Honor Award to Ky Rohman in 1999 and to John Lauber in 2006.

He also built and donated the Rohman Bridge on the Whiskey Run Creek Nature Trail behind the Schoolhouse and dedicated it to the memory of Lorraine Rohman. John Lauber, who worked with Ky for years in the arboretum, related a comment of his, "Many of the new people who have moved to Brownville have one thing in

common, they are all crazy."

George Neubert, then President of the Brownville Fine Arts Association, suggested and recommended to Ky and Jane that the three lots across Main Street from the Schoolhouse Gallery become an extension of the arboretum and transitioned as a community garden and gathering place for historic Brownville. The Rohmans requested George to put it on paper. George approached artist and architect Robert Hanna of Lincoln and long-time visitor to Brownville to design a plan. In 2016, Ky and Jane Rohman donated the three lots to the Arboretum that would become a public space and garden in honor of Carl Rohman and his many contributions to Brownville.

Nebraska poet and U.S. Poet Laureate (2004-2006) Ted Kooser has composed a poem dedicated to the memory of Carl Rohman which will be prominently displayed just inside the entrance to the garden. The garden will also feature a Wall of History and iris beds. Ky and his mother enjoyed breeding irises and he is credited with contributing a number of new varieties such as China Girl, a tall, bearded iris with apricot-pink bi-tone with a red beard.

The garden structures are on track to be completed this summer and the plants, grass and trees will be planted in the fall. A grand opening and dedication ceremony is being planned for some time in 2021. This will be a fitting tribute to the memory of Carl "Ky" Rohman and the legacy he has left to all in Brownville and a wonderful addition to the artistic, historic, and natural public spaces enjoyed by this small but exceptional community.





**A WELCOME**

THESE WORDS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.  
 IF IN THE SPRING YOU'VE COME LOOKING  
 FOR HAPPINESS. BE LIKE THE IRIS  
 AND BRIGHTEN EACH HOUR WITH YOUR BREATH.

IF SOME BRIGHT SUMMER YOU HAVE COME  
 LOOKING FOR HOPE, BE LIKE A SUNFLOWER  
 LIFTING YOUR FACE TO THE LIGHT.  
 THESE WORDS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

THESE WORDS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.  
 IF IN THE CHILL OF AN AUTUMN YOU'VE COME  
 LOOKING FOR STRENGTH. BE LIKE AN OAK LEAF  
 IN WIND, HOLDING ONTO EACH HOUR.

IF IN THE WINTER YOU'VE COME HERE  
 TO SEEK PATIENCE, BE LIKE THE SNOW,  
 BENEATH WHICH, DURING ALL THE LONG HOURS,  
 THESE WORDS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

TED KOOSER  
 U.S. POET LAUREATE 2004-2006

DEDICATED TO CARL ROHMAN

**Ky Rohman and George Neubert with the poem written by Ted Kooser. "A Welcome" is engraved in metal and will be displayed at Rohman Gardens.**



**Concept Drawing  
 by Robert Hanna**

**ROHMAN GARDENS**  
 BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA

**Schoolhouse Art Gallery & Nature Center  
 427 Main Street • P. O. Box 4 • Brownville, Nebraska 68321 • Phone: 402-825-4992**

# Rohman Gardens: #underconstruction



Work on the Rohman Gardens began early this summer. Pieters Construction did the concrete work, which included the circular walk, pads for two benches, and the entrance to the pergola.



Jim Gerdes and his crew built the pergola in the Rohman Gardens. It rained in the morning and the crew worked hard through the day to finish it.



The large boulder was put in place last month at Rohman Gardens.



John Lokke, left, and Dale Dickkut, right, have worked on the limestone wall this summer.

# BFAA Artist and Speaker Series

The BFAA Artist and Speaker Series were put on hold in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a typical year, the Schoolhouse Art Gallery features artists from June to October. Special exhibitions focus on visual artists of the region and are dovetailed with lectures, workshops and artist receptions. The Speaker Series hosts a speaker once a month from June to October on subjects ranging from books and living history to nature and other topics of interest.



The artwork exhibit of Sara Bellamy was on display May 30 through June 30, 2019. "Aspens & Animals, the Cabin Series" is folkie and very colorful.



Jill Lokke, left, and Eva Neubert, center, are pictured with Kate Ottmann, seated, at Kate's artist's reception July 7, 2019. Kate, a student at Rock Port High School, was featured along with fellow RPHS student Austin Moore. Their "Into The Wild" exhibit was featured July 4 - 28.



David Bristow shared stories about "Nebraska Aeronauts before World War I" August 30, 2019, at The Schoolhouse Gallery.



Bill Hayes presented the story of the Lewis & Clark Expedition through the eyes of its youngest member, George Shannon, on June 28, 2019. He shared experiences he had on the journey to the Pacific Ocean and highlighted some of the adventures (and misadventures) of the expedition party.

# Remembering William “Bill” Jamison

By *Mary Lauber*

Bill was a very private person, but a big presence in Brownville, serving as President of Brownville Fine Arts Association (BFAA), member of Brownville Historical Society, and Concert Series Committee. He volunteered countless hours caring for and mowing the Governor Furnas Arboretum.

Bill was an avid photographer and received many awards for his photography. Several of his photos appeared in and on covers of magazines. He was the photographer for the *Brownville Bulletin*.

Growing up in the Burton and Springfield areas of Nebraska, Bill served in Korea in the Army, returning to Nebraska and earning his MA in audiology from UNL. He was an audiologist for the Educational Service Unit at Auburn, Nebraska, for 18 years, and it was during his time in Auburn that he became involved in volunteering for various projects in Brownville.

From my personal recollections of Bill I always heard and saw him mowing in the Arboretum, and if I needed to visit with him about BFAA business, that is where I could find him. He told me I was a number 10 to him. This meant on his phone speed dial I was the number 10. We got a lot of “mileage” out of that. He drove a Chevy Citation, and sticking out of his trunk was a life-like rubber hand as if he was transporting a human body, or whatever, in his trunk.

His Celebration of Life was held in the Brownville Concert Hall and John and I sang “The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi” which was, in my opinion, very appropriate for Bill:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy  
O Divine Master, grant that I may  
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
To be understood, as to understand  
To be loved, as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life  
Amen

Bill met his untimely death on October 24, 1994, at the age of 47.

What a guy!

*Photographs by William “Bill” Jamison*





**BROWNVILLE CONCERT SERIES**  
**30th DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY SEASON in 2021!**  
**“Thanks for the Memory”**

**April 16-18, 2021**

**Todd Murray & Stacy Sullivan: Lady & the Tramp**



The Musical Romance of Frank Sinatra and Peggy Lee: from the time they first shared the stage in 1941 at the Paramount Theater in Times Square until Frank’s passing in 1998, Peggy Lee and Frank Sinatra remained the closest of friends and musical peers.

**May 21-23, 2021**

**Because of You: Fifties Gold**

Award-winning New York nightclub and concert artist Jeff Harnar returns to the Brownville Concert Series for the 9th time with his critically acclaimed show Because of You: Fifties Gold. The show taps into his parents’ record collection, highlighting songs from the Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Nat “King” Cole, Doris Day and Johnnie Ray songbooks.



**June 11-13, 2021**

**Elvis Rock N Remember Tribute Show**



In Joseph Hall’s Elvis Rock N Remember show, he achieves a powerful flashback experience to the moment when fans fell in love with the talented, handsome, carefree, energetic, high spirited young man that is Elvis Presley.

**July 16-18, 2021**

**Lonnie McFadden: Singer, Tap Dancer, Trumpeter**

There is nothing he can’t do! His infectious personality is only matched by his obvious passion for his jazz music. Lonnie, the self-proclaimed Mr. Bo-jangles, goes into each performance with the intent of creating a personal connection and a good dose of fun.



**August 22, 2021**

**William Ferguson, Tenor**

American tenor William Ferguson is a versatile artist whose repertoire ranges from early baroque to contemporary music and musical theatre. The program will span several languages and genres – from baroque masters, German lieder, French melodies, English classical song, as well as selections from the American Songbook (in honor and memory of Jim Keene). French, German, and English will be the languages represented – maybe even some Italian, too!



**September 17-19, 2021**

**Thanks for the Memory!**

There are some performers who, though possessing completely different styles and personalities, blend in a wholly enjoyable way. The duo of KT Sullivan and Mark Nadler is a prime example of this phenomenon, most recently in their show “Thanks for The Memory, 25 Years of Duets” at The Green Room 42.



**October 15-17, 2021**

**Chris Jones & the Night Drivers**

This band has had 11 number one songs on the Bluegrass Charts and won 9 IBMA awards including song of the year and songwriter of the year. They have shared the stage with Alison Krauss, Tom T. Hall, The Chieftains and more!



**November 14, 2021**

**Beethoven & Beyond**

Great music for cello and piano, cellist Jennifer Kloetzel has concertized throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. A founding member of the Cypress String Quartet, Ms. Kloetzel has toured the world. Pianist Robert Koenig has established a reputation as a much sought-after collaborative pianist and chamber musician.



**December 10-12, 2021**

**A Swinging Brownville Christmas**

In the tradition of beloved seasonal specials, Klea Blackhurst, Jim Caruso and Billy Stritch will perform swinging arrangements of “Christmas Waltz,” Kay Thompson’s “Holiday Season,” “Sleigh Ride,” “I’ve Got My Love To Keep Me Warm,” “Snow,” and “It Happened In Sun Valley” among other favorites. The singers will be joined by Steve Doyle on bass and Daniel Glass on drums.



**WE ARE OFFERING 2021 SEASON PASSES  
 FOR ONLY \$180.**

**Online at [www.brownvilleconcertseries.com](http://www.brownvilleconcertseries.com)  
 or on Facebook or call 402-825-3331.**

# Brownville Historical Society Update

*By Steve Woerth, BHS President*

I am now in my second year as president of the Brownville Historical Society (BHS) and I am beginning to feel like Pharoah and wonder what kind of plague will I have to put up with next. The last two years have definitely been a challenge to all of us – not just BHS. With the cancellation of so many activities in Brownville, all of our organizations and merchants are struggling but we are all determined to move forward and keep our beautiful historic town alive and well.

At BHS, we decided to open our museums in mid-June and so far that has gone pretty well for us. We are seeing many people from Indian Cave State Park coming in for an afternoon of activities. We are taking steps to make sure we stay safe and protect our visitors. We are also going to proceed with all of our fall events starting with the Brownville Historical Society Golf Classic in August. That will be followed by the Fall Flea Market in late September and Old Time Autumn in October. For the flea market we have submitted and received approval for an Event Safety Plan from the Southeast District Health Department. We will do the same for Old Time Autumn since we are doing the Civil War reenactments this year. We hope that you will support us in these events but also want people to only participate if they feel safe doing so. For dates and any cancellations please visit our website listed below.

Over the past several years, BHS has completed several major projects in Brownville including moving and rebuilding the Didier Cabin, completing and opening the Sage Memorial Museum and then renovating and reopening the Chitwood Wheel Museum. We are extremely proud of each of these accomplishments but we are not going to sit back or slow down. Our mission is to protect and preserve the history of Brownville and so we are going to continue to move forward in that mission. We have already started on two more projects and have more in the works. We have started returning the Carson Carriage House back to a carriage house where we will display carriages, harness, and other artifacts. We have started renovating the bathrooms in the park (with the help of Boy Scouts) so that we can return them to a functioning status. We will also soon begin a renovation of the Spurgin Dental Office.

Along with these physical projects, we are now partnering with the Peru State College History department on several projects which we hope will end up making many documents available online. We are also going to do a project related to the Great Nemaha Reservation and a Black History project as it relates to Brownville. I am really excited about much of what we are doing and where we are headed. We have had some setbacks these past two years but we are not letting that stop us from our mission. If anyone is interested in helping us in any way, just drop us an email at [brownvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:brownvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.brownvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.brownvillehistoricalsociety.org). Please stay safe and I hope to see you in Brownville.



As we all know by now, the COVID-19 threat is not diminishing. Sadly, the Brownville Concert Series Board has elected, along with many others, to reschedule the

remaining 2020 performances to similar dates in 2021. The great appeal of our venue has been the fact that it is intimate, up close and personal which is not safe under the current circumstances. We hope things will be better next year!

If you have purchased tickets online for these shows, rest assured that they are good for the rescheduled date. The 2020 season passes will also be extended to include these rescheduled shows in 2021. Program ad advertisements will be good for the 2021 programs. Sponsorships will remain valid for the 2021 shows as well.

We thank you all for your generosity, your understanding, and your continued support. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Box Office at 402-825-3331. You can still see our performers on our Facebook page!

*BCS Board of Trustees*



**ANNUAL FALL FLEA MARKET**  
**September 26 & 27, 2020**  
*Sponsored by Brownville Historical Society*

**BFAA**  
**YARD SALE**  
**September 26 & 27**

BFAA has a yard sale during the spring and fall flea markets each year. We need and gladly accept your "stuff." (We can't accept clothing and old TV sets.) If you have items to donate, please call Peggy Groff (402-414-2082) or Jan Wright (402-245-7879)

**SPRING FLEA MARKET**  
**May 29, 30 & 31, 2021**

# Brownville Village Theatre

The Brownville Village Theatre (BVT) is the oldest repertory theatre in residence in Nebraska. For over 50 consecutive years, BVT has delivered quality entertainment in historic Brownville. The theatre space is a century-old converted church and provides a truly unique theatre experience. Beginning in 1967, the Brownville Village Theatre opened as a summer repertory theatre. Employing collegiate and emerging theatre artists as both technicians and actors, BVT has given opportunities to hundreds of young theatre professionals over the years. In an incredibly fast-paced and collaborative environment, these young artists learn to put together a production in a week. Additionally, BVT performs five shows in the true tradition of repertory, never the same show back to back. This allows the audience a chance to see all five different shows in a weekend and allows performers a chance to perform in multiple roles in a weekend (often in the same day!). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 summer season has been postponed to summer 2021 for the safety of the audience and artists. Opening the doors for the traditional summer repertory in 2021 will truly be more special than ever before.

Within recent years, the theatre has not sat idle in the time between summer seasons. Under the artistic direction of Rachel Curtiss and Mitch Bean, development has been made to ensure the theatre's activity throughout a larger portion of the calendar year. Beginning in 2017, the theatre has held performances during Brownville's Old Time Autumn festival. In 2018, a Christmas show was added to the theatre's season, coordinating performances with the village's December holiday weekend. BVT's Mystery Troupe, a traveling interactive dinner experience has been a part of this expansion as well, performing in local venues (including The River Inn Resort in Brownville).

One of the most important additions to BVT has been BVT's Young Performer's program. Outside of Lincoln and Omaha, Southeast Nebraska lacks in theatre outreach for young people. By focusing on small groups of school aged youth, BVT has been able to give opportunities for children and teens to learn about theatre, performing, and arts awareness by hosting Young Performer's Workshops for the last three years. In 2019, those youth artists were given an opportunity to engage those skills in a full-length production on the stage, getting hands on experience within an actual performance. In July 2020, BVT premiered a Young Performer's Virtual Talent Show, safely giving kids a chance to perform from a distance through social media. As interest continues, BVT has plans to expand to multiple workshops throughout the year as well as keeping tradition of a Young Performer's production in the fall.

Check out what the theatre is doing next by going to [www.BrownvilleVillageTheatre.com](http://www.BrownvilleVillageTheatre.com) and follow them on Facebook and Instagram!



**Comedy of Tenors**



**Shadows of Suspicion**



**The first Young Performer's Workshop was held in 2019. The group of young thespians is pictured in one of their performances.**



# BFAA videos

With funding from Humanities Nebraska, the Brownville Fine Arts Association has been sharing videos highlighting the arts and humanities in southeast Nebraska and beyond. The videos were posted on our Facebook page, and also on YouTube (search for Brownville Fine Arts). They include:



- Peggy Groff, president of BFAA, shares more about the organization’s mission and invites local artists to participate in activities.

- Jill Lokke, retired educator and member of Brownville Fine Arts Association’s Board of Directors, shares fun and educational information about the birds and bugs at the BFAA arboretum’s pollinator garden, fun facts about the pollinator garden, and resources to help you create your own pollinator garden.

- Rich Hayek, Brownville, Nebraska, shares his artistic philosophy in the Gov. Furnas Arboretum. Richard Hayek – artist, poet, geographer – can be found traveling back roads or trampling along creek beds impressing scenes into his mind, relying on his senses to record an honest moment in nature’s history. Rich also shares his artistic process as he transfers the scene from his mind onto a fine-grain sandpaper surface using pastels and charcoal to create a visual representation of poetry.

- Dale Dickkut, member of the BFAA Board of Directors, shares his tips for building a rock wall using the random rubble method. The wall is part of the Rohman Gardens, currently under construction in Brownville as part of the Gov. Furnas Arboretum.

- Learn more about the newest addition to the Gov. Furnas Arboretum from Dale Dickkut and Jane Rohman. The Rohman Gardens are in honor of Carl Rohman, who was instrumental in creating and designing the arboretum in addition to saving many of the historic homes in Brownville.



[www.facebook.com/BrownvilleFineArtsAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/BrownvilleFineArtsAssociation)

**Also . . . visit our new website:  
[www.BrownvilleFineArts.com](http://www.BrownvilleFineArts.com)**

You can now begin or renew a membership online or make a donation to BFAA.

e-mail: [BrownvilleFineArts@gmail.com](mailto:BrownvilleFineArts@gmail.com)

# BFAA

## Brownville Fine Arts Association

**P.O. Box 4 • Brownville, NE 68321**



Please join the Brownville Fine Arts Association. It serves as a vital volunteer resource in support of cultural, educational, recreational events and activities in historic Brownville. In these endeavors, BFAA operates, maintains, sponsors and supports:

- Schoolhouse Art Gallery
- Governor R. W. Furnas Arboretum
- Governor R. W. Furnas Historic Home
- Whiskey Run Creek Nature Trail

**Levels of Membership:**

Friend.....	\$10	Sponsor.....	\$125
Patron.....	\$30	300 Club.....	\$300
Contributor.....	\$65		

**Make check payable to BFAA**

Mail to P.O. Box 4 – Brownville, NE 68321

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# BFAA 2020 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

*New members are indicated with an asterisk (\*).*

**2020 by your name indicates dues are paid for this year . . . thank you!  
Previous members – it is never too late to renew!**

**Please notify the Membership Chair immediately if there is an error.  
(Write: BFAA, P.O. Box 4, Brownville, NE 68321)**

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 Peru State College Library, Peru, NE



### MISSION STATEMENT

“The Brownville Fine Arts Association strives to promote the visual and performing arts and pledges to weave them into Brownville’s historically and culturally rich setting. We also recognize the gratifying beauty in nature and the outdoors. We endeavor to maintain a place for those who wish to develop the creative process, expand aesthetic appreciation, and derive new meaning and understanding from the arts and nature.”



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Brownville Fine Arts Association

Fall 2020

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