



# 2024 Annual Report



The Mission of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum is to educate others about Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, and in doing so, celebrate his life, his work, his philosophy, and his legacy.

I am pleased to provide this Annual Report for our Members. The Liberty Hyde Bailey board and staff worked diligently to provide dynamic programming for our members, children, residents, community students, and visitors. We also partnered events with other South Haven organizations, conducted school visits and gave tours of the museum and gardens to many visitors to South Haven. ‘Dr. Bailey’ also traveled to several locations for ‘out of town’ presentations. The Museum hosted over 1,800 guests this year!

The Bailey Museum is the only museum in South Haven on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also a Michigan Historic Site and a City of South Haven public park. We are committed to the preservation of, and education about, this 170-year-old historic home, which is one of the oldest houses still standing in South Haven. We also emphasize the impact on young Bailey that the home, the Backwoods, and the education he obtained here in South Haven had on him, his life, and the resulting legacy he left around the world.

Dan Williamson, Board Chair

### Key Accomplishments:



Programming: We continue our monthly StoryWalks® (#23 now), which are planted in the backwoods every month and are free and open to the public. The South Haven Memorial Library chose the books. We also hosted a free Family Event in conjunction with every new book planted.

We worked with area nonprofits to offer diverse educational programs for both children and adults. Some of the topics covered in our presentations were native plants, recycling, soil health, invasive species, backyard birds, and the history of Southwest Michigan wine making. We were pleased that John Linstrom, the

museum’s Director Emeritus, a South Haven native and editor of the new publication of *The Nature-Study Idea and Related Writings* by Liberty Hyde Bailey, 1<sup>st</sup> edition published in 1903. It has been wonderful to see Bailey’s work republished and available for readers today. It is available at the museum and on our website.

In September we held our 5<sup>th</sup> Bailey Fall Conference at Lake Michigan College. Lisa Winger, former STEM director, educator and NASA educational specialist, was our keynote speaker. Thanks to the South Haven Community Foundation and the Visitors Bureau for their support. In conjunction with the conference, we had a “Women Inspired by Nature” art exhibit featuring local women artists which was an enjoyable success. All conference videos will be available online shortly to attendees and members. The museum was the host site for the South Haven Garden Club’s 26<sup>th</sup> annual garden walk. We hosted numerous school visits this year, including the local STEM club, History Club, and Youth Development Company/PAL.



Youth Programming: We received a grant from the Van Buren Conservation District to develop the area east of the barn for a “Youth Patio”, an outdoor space containing a sensory path/garden as well as a mud kitchen! We plan to add a hoop-house, “sound garden”, and other spaces for children to use.



Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions. Facebook: Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum  
903 S. Bailey Avenue | PO Box 626 | South Haven MI 49090 | 269 637 3251 | LibertyHydeBailey.org

Bailey’s Budding Naturalists: This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Budding Naturalists program. For the last 4 years Sarett Nature Center Naturalists have taught at the camp - 25 children attended this year. We added a new program this year – Bailey’s Nature Buddies- a camp for 3–4-year-olds.

National Historic Site Major Accomplishments: After receiving donations 2 years ago - this year - we found a bricklayer to restore the smoke house, which was built by Liberty Hyde Bailey, Sr in 1855. *Wanders Group* did great work, and it should survive another 170 years! Two doors inside the museum were widened to accommodate a wheelchair, thanks to the SH Community Foundation. The museum is not fully ADA accessible - the ramp and bathroom are not fully accessible. We are committed to working to address this in the near future.

Collections: This summer John Stempien, Director Emeritus, cataloged the museum artifacts and books. We received a generous donation for the purchase of new museum software that will allow current and future historians and scholars to have access to our collection online.

**Partnerships & Supporters:**

The City of South Haven, The Greater SH Community Foundation, MI Humanities, Michigan Arts & Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Sarett Nature Center, Van Buren Conservation District, MSU Extension, SH Garden Club, SH History Club, SH Rotary, Lake Michigan College, and many generous SH Chamber of Commerce members. And of course, our valued Members.

**Financial Summary: Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024**

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Individual/Business Donations	4,479	Operating Expenses	50,327
Grants	26,597	Collection Expenses	7,980
Corp/Other Contributions	31,162	Facilities and Equipment	7,537
Membership Dues/Donations	8,733	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>65,844</b>
Fund Raising	2,450		
Classes/Workshops/Conference	3,733		
Retail Gift Shop Sales	734		
Interest Savings, Short Term	1,033		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>78,921</b>	<b>Net Gain</b>	<b>13,077</b>

**Board of Directors and Employees:**

Mr. Daniel Williamson, Chair; Ms. Joan Hiddema, Treasurer; Ms. Wendi Onuki, City of South Haven Representative; Ms. Cheyenne Sloan, Board Member and MSU-Ext, Ms. Robin Reva, Board Member and Artist in Residence; Ms. Carrie Sauter, Board Member, Ms. Lia Will, VBCD Admin. Assistant, Ms. Sondra Sutton, SH Play School. Part-time employees: Jennifer Lersten, Admin. Assistant, Ashleigh Bomgaars, Social Media Specialist.

