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**Iola Historical Society to hold 29th annual Strawberry Fest**

**with Antiques Appraisal Fair and crafters on June 23**

IOLA, WI: Strawberries and local history are on the schedule for the Iola Historical Society’s 29th Annual Strawberry Fest, to be held Sunday, June 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Society’s Historical Village complex on Depot Street just west of downtown Iola. Local crafters will also show off their handiwork, and an Antiques Appraisal Fair provides experts on a wide range of collectibles on hand to ascertain the value of people’s attic and basement treasures.

Admission to the event is free, although goodwill donations are being accepted. Food items include strawberry shortcake and ice cream or cool whip, for $4; barbecue sandwich, $3.00; hot dog, $2.50; and coffee, lemonade and water for $1. Each purchase of strawberry shortcake includes a free raffle ticket, with additional tickets available for $1 each. Door prizes are from local merchants. All proceeds from the event go to benefit restoration of the historic Iola & Northern Railroad Depot and other historical society projects.

**Historic building tours**

The Historic Iola Village buildings will be open for visitors, except the Iola And Northern Railway depot, which is undergoing restoration to its original design. The other buildings include a replica of a schoolhouse, a 1930s log cabin, the original Helvetia Town Hall, The Machine Shed filled with vintage farm and manufacturing equipment, and the historical society’s museum.

The museum features recently acquired collections such as the Ray Elmer Towne collection of native American artifacts found around Iola and throughout Waupaca County, and the Bert Stromberg violin collection. Stromberg was a former constable of Iola who made and sold violins in the mid-20th century. Other items of local historical significance are also on display. Docents will be at each building to talk about their historic significance and answer any questions.

**Antique Appraisal Fair**

Area residents can bring items from their attics and basements for evaluation and pricing information to a wide-ranging group of experts at the Antiques Appraisal Fair. Cost is $2 per item or $5 for three items, with all proceeds benefitting the Iola Historical Society.

Antiques and collectibles appraisers tentatively include, for general antiques, Joel Edler; books, comics and popular culture - Maggie Thompson, Brent Frankenhoff, and Tom Michael; sports collectibles - Bob Lemke; sporting goods - Ted Willems; militaria and medals - Colin Bruce and Fred Borgmann; miscellaneous collectibles, toys, and coins - Eric Bradley, Dave Demling, George Cuhaj, and Joel Edler; records and music memorabilia – Tim Neely; and automotive - John Gunnell.

**Crafters showing their skills**

Crafters showing their artisan skills include Linda Carsten (rosemaling), Jerry Johnson, (rugweaving), Claire Nordness (spinning), and Patty Kirschner ( jewelry making), among others. Most of the crafters also have items for sale.

For more information, go to the Society’s website at www.iolahistoricalsociety.org or [www.ischamber.org](http://www.ischamber.org).

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