

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News Release

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WCHS Wins Minnesota History Award



Cottage Grove resident Dave Lindsey, WCHS Board Chair, at left and WCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson accept the Minnesota History Award for public programming at the fall workshop held in Winona at the Winona County History Museum on October 29, 2010.

The Washington County Historical Society was awarded a Minnesota History Award for public programming by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums on Friday, October 29, 2010 at their fall workshop in Winona.

The Historical Society's program is the St. Croix Base Ball Club, a vintage base ball club that mixes in the entertainment of base ball with the interpretation of the early statehood years of Minnesota. The team takes on nearly all challengers, playing by 1860 rules that include the prohibition of fielding gloves and calling an out on a ball caught off the first bounce.

The Saint Croix Base Ball Club has played for thirteen years against clubs from Denmark Township to Woodbury, Cottage Grove, Afton, Bayport, Stillwater and Scandia. The Club travels all across Minnesota as well, playing in such venues as Bruno, Holdingford, Pipestone, Rochester, Becker, Glencoe, Arlington, Northfield, and many, many others. They have played in National exhibitions in Washington D.C.; Columbus, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Denver, Colorado. The St. Croix's have also played before

Minnesota Twins games at the Metrodome and in the winter at Midway Stadium in St. Paul against the Saints.

The awards committee was particularly impressed with the Club's role in growing the popularity of vintage base ball across the state and helping create other teams at other organizations. "Vintage Base Ball has grown every year we have been playing," said Washington County Historical Society Executive Director Brent Peterson. "It brings generations and communities together, as it did 150 years ago, which makes each match we play special."

Currently there are between 15-20 volunteers that make up the club, at all levels of playing ability. "We have had father-son members on the club, and even father-daughter!" said Peterson. Ages of players range from 15 to 70 years of age.

The club is working on their 2011 schedule. If you are interested in becoming a member of the club or have an organization that would like to challenge the current reigning vintage base ball champions of Minnesota, you can call the Historical Society at 651-439-5956 or visit online at www.wchsmn.org.

Washington County Historical Society collects, preserves, and disseminates the history of the county and state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a private, donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 750 individual, family, and business members. The WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships, earned income, and foundation grants.