



THE APPLE CORE

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Museum Update: The refinishing of the museum floors.

Joe and Alyssa McConnell own a small business based in Urbana, Ohio called Flooring Restoring LLC. Joe has



done woodworking since his teen years. He has been doing flooring for 10 years. Looking to provide quality service, customer care, and satisfaction to all of our clients. We are honored to be part of the restoration that is happening at the Johnny Appleseed Museum this month, and we are thrilled to be part of something local and so historic here in this town!

From the Archives: He's not 'just' Ken – He's Blane!



Lately, it feels like I cannot take two steps without being smacked in the face with the bubblegum pop-pink advertising of the new Barbie movie, starring Margot

Robbie as the titular Barbie character, and the ever-handsome Ryan Gosling as her loveable sidekick-slash-boyfriend, Ken. Growing up, I myself had a whole play tub full of Barbies, though I much preferred and coveted my Madison doll-a-Barbie competitor from a franchise called *My Scene*. As modern businesses and nonprofits alike try to reach a younger audience, I hatched a plan to get in on the newfound Barbie craze, knowing we had a Johnny Appleseed Ken doll in our archive. I would post a picture of our unique doll and let the “likes” roll in! Little did I know I was about to uncover Barbie’s other lover-sorry, Ken.

Never heard of Blane Gordon, Barbie’s once summer fling? Don’t feel bad, he was removed from the market almost as swiftly as he arrived, then returned and removed again mere years later. After taking photos of our Johnny Appleseed dressed doll,



I posted the photos online, but found Mattel, the company behind Barbie, never made a Johnny Appleseed doll, meaning that our Johnny doll was made lovingly by-hand. Well, if it wasn’t intentionally John Chapman, then, who was dressed as Johnny? My first instinct of course, was to look up Ken, the leading man in the Barbie franchise.

To first narrow down my search, I had to specify that this doll had what is called ‘rooted’ hair, or real, brushable, touchable hair. Many Ken dolls gave Ken a painted-on hairline and it wasn’t until much later in the franchise, the 1990’s, that the boy dolls were given their own luscious locks. His smile too, was uncanny-not a toothy pearly white smile, but a close-lipped smile. What secrets did this Ken hold?

The secret was that he was no Ken at all. Our Johnny Appleseed doll was made from a character churned out in the year 2000, Blane Gordon. One Barbie fanatic posted a biography on Blane to the collector and fan website,

fashiondollz. The creator referenced the original text found on Blane's box and stated that Blane debuted in 2000 with a love for hip hop and cheeseburgers but noted that he swiftly dropped off the market after only a few years as one of Barbie's new 'friends.' He reappeared in 2004 however, but with a total makeover. Blane now had a new face, called a 'Tango' face, new hobbies which included extreme sports, and had a summer romance with Barbie before going back to his hometown of Sydney, Australia-and back off the market.

For those of you who are collector purists, worry not, the average market value of a 2006 Beach Fun Blane Gordon, still in his box is roughly between twenty and fifty dollars on the internet. While I'm afraid we don't have a chance to capitalize on the Barbie fever stirred up by the major motion picture of the same name, I think I like our humble Blane just fine. I think the cast iron skillet hat, likely purchased from a dollhouse miniature line and home made burlap shirt is perfectly suited to us.



Upcoming Events:

- Second Saturdays, Sept. 9, 2023, Urbana, Ohio, 10am - 8pm, the Johnny Appleseed Education Center & Museum will be set up in the square, come and see us!
- Johnny Appleseed Festival, Sept 16-17, 2023, Lisbon, Ohio.
- Johnny Appleseed Festival, Sept 16-17, 2023, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, the Johnny Appleseed Education Center & museum will be set up at the festival, come and see us!

Applesauce Cookies Great-Great-Great Grandma's Applesauce Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

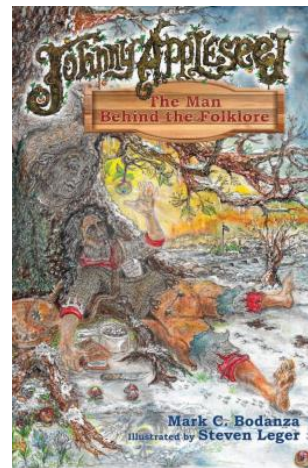
- 3/4 c. shortening, softened
- 1 c. brown sugar, packed
- 1 egg
- 1/2 c. applesauce, plus some
- 2 1/4 c. all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 3/4 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. ground cloves
- 1 c. seedless raisins
- 1/2 c. chopped walnuts

INSTRUCTIONS:

Mix shortening, sugar, and egg thoroughly. Stir in applesauce. Combine dry ingredients and blend into shortening/sugar/egg mixture. Mix in raisins and nuts. Drop spoonfuls onto a greased baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Makes 4 dozen.

Recipe from *Apple Recipes from the Johnny Appleseed Society* cookbook. For purchase at our gift shop.

A new Johnny Appleseed book is coming out!



The author, Mark C. Bodanza, of Leominster, Mass will be releasing his new book mid-August, 2023. Mark is an accomplished writer, historian, and a trial lawyer. He has written twelve books as well as several newspaper columns. Now he will tell the story of how John Champman the man became Johnny Appleseed the legend.

Accepting Submissions!

Do you like to write and need an outlet? We are accepting articles about all things Johnny Appleseed. This includes non-fiction, poetry, recipes, Swedenborgian religion, American and local history from the 18-19th century, and arts & crafts how to's. Please keep articles under 1500 words. Include any photos and citations. Email submissions to director@johnnyappleseedmuseum.org.

