The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Newsletter

Fall 2022

Pioneer Sweets is a student-managed ice cream business in the School of Agriculture at UW-Platteville put together by Dr. Tera Montgomery. At the Annual Meeting, Tera will speak on her partnership with the Museum to create a fun and authentic place-based experience through ice cream.

Pie & Pioneer Sweets Pair for Annual Meeting, Program 4-6 p.m. Nov. 5

This year's Annual Meeting and Program of the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums is a pie and ice cream social! The program, at 4-6 p.m. Nov. 5, features the delicious pairing of a variety of home-baked pies and eight custom ice cream flavors created for the Museum by Pioneer Sweets of UW-Platteville. Dr. Tera Montgomery, agriculture professor and advisor to the Pioneer Sweets project, will speak on the process she and her

Continued on page 5

Pasty Sale Returns in Time for the Holidays

Order by Friday, Nov. 4.
Pick up Saturday, Nov. 19.

The Pasty Fundraiser is back by popular demand for another round of deliciousness in time for the holidays. These authentic Cornish pasties come in beef, chicken, pork, vegetable, and gluten-free beef flavors, and are offered frozen with baking instructions by the Walker House of Mineral Point.

Order by Friday, Nov. 4, for pick up at the Museum on Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. We offer discounts of 20% for orders of five to nine pasties and 30% for orders of 10 or more! Place your order online at www.mining.jamison.museum or call Museum staff at (608) 348-3301. Thank you!

Challenge Grant Update: We're at 75% and Rising!

Thanks to your gifts that have been arriving since announcement of the Challenge Grant campaign beginning Sept. 1, the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums have raised roughly three-quarters of the $25,000 goal required to earn a dollar-for-dollar matching grant. The deadline for Challenge Grant donations is December 1.

A generous Platteville individual initiated this important Challenge Grant to achieve two important ends simultaneously: 1) to complete a $35,000 Museum Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, for which a $10k grant from Dubuque Racing Association has also been

Continued on page 10

Events & Programs

Register online at www.mining.jamison.museum/programs or call (608) 348-3301.

October 29, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sweet Treats on Main

As part of the Sweets Treats on Main event held by the Platteville Main Street Program from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Museum will offer one free train ride per child as a "treat." While children and families wait for their turn on the train, they can create an enriching Halloween craft for children ages 3 and up. No registration necessary.

October 29, 5-9 p.m.
Haunted Mine Tours

Get ready for Platteville's spookiest Halloween tradition! Haunted Mine Tours descend deep into the Bevans Mine for a lantern-lit adventure to learn about historic truths that are stranger than fiction. Tours often sell out, so reserve your spot in advance online or by phone.

October 31
Community Free Day

Platteville residents are invited to enjoy free admission on Community Free Day on Oct. 31 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., the last day of the year's daily tour season! Free Day includes free Museum Admission, Guided Mine Tour & Train Ride (weather permitting), and a self-guided tour of the cultural heritage collection. Community Free Day is one way we thank local citizens for their long-standing support. Advance registration suggested.

November 5, 4 p.m.
Friends Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Program is a free benefit for Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums 2022 members and donors. The event serves as an important Museum fundraiser encouraging visitors to join, renew, or make their annual gift. It also thanks volunteers, donors, and board members and keeps all informed about current and future initiatives. Advance registration requested online or by phone.

Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 4-8:30 p.m.
Holiday Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

Join us for old-fashioned holiday horse-drawn carriage rides through downtown Platteville and learn about local history and key architectural landmarks! Enjoy the scenery and holiday lights around town with a beautiful team of draft horses. Each $120/carriage seats your private party of up to 10. Register online.

December 10, 4 p.m.
Holiday Mine Sing

Celebrate the holiday spirit with us above ground and below with a beautiful evening of music! A traditional Christmas concert around the 14-foot holiday tree by the 50-member Platteville Chorale will be followed by the Platteville High School Blue Notes performing jazz standards and holiday carols a cappella underground in the Bevans Mine.

February 4, 2023, 4-10 p.m.
Miners Ball

Get into the Valentine's Day spirit with this classic Platteville gala! Dress up, enjoy a delicious banquet and cash bar, and swing to the music of a Big Band orchestra. Part of the fun of the evening is bidding on wonderful items in the silent auction. Sponsorship opportunities available. Ticket cost is $50 each, or $500 for table of eight. Register online or by phone.

Mine Day (August 20)

Music by Grass Attack and Bluegrass Reunion delighted the crowd.

Kids loved the UV light-fluorescing mineral display by Dan Trocke.

Martin Jacobson displayed the steam engine he ran on compressed air.

Historic Re-enactment (Sept. 9-11)

Voyageur Terry Hass demonstrated the importance of the fur trade.

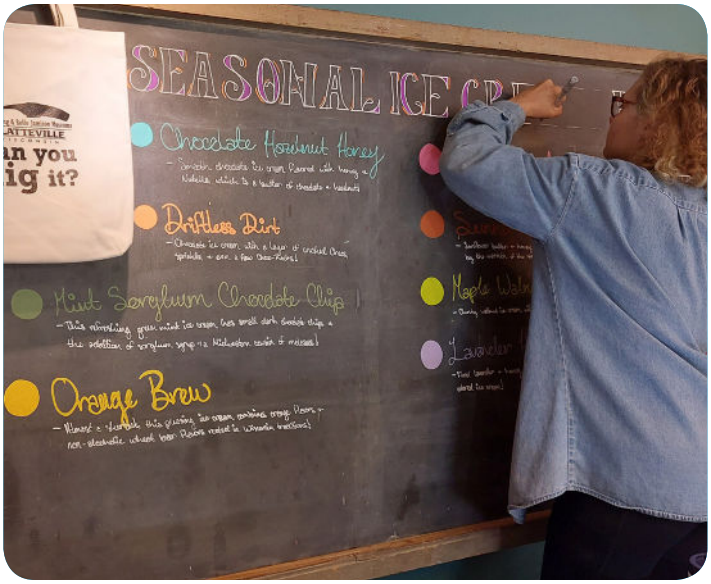
The Prairie du Chien Militia demonstrated the firing of the cannon.

Wood carver Steve Blattner showed how paddles were crafted.

Ice Cream & Pie Continued from page 1

students used to come up with the portfolio of flavors offered at the Museum.

The Annual Meeting and Program is offered as a free benefit for 2022 members of the Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums and donors over $35. The event serves as a museum fundraiser encouraging visitors to join, renew, or make their annual gift, as well as to thank volunteers, donors, and board members. Attendees will enjoy pie and ice cream and time to mingle, as well as the Annual Meeting presentations by Friends Board and Museum leadership reviewing the year's accomplishments and upcoming initiatives. We look forward to seeing you! Register online or by phone.



Tour guide Diane Nusbaum lettered a slate with seasonal ice cream flavors.

'Art & Science of Glass' Science Festival Memories

Each year, the Wisconsin Science Festival highlights a specific aspect of the world around us. This year's focus was a nod to the International Year of Glass. As part of the festivities, the Museum debuted a new exhibit titled "The Science and Art of Glass," available for viewing all week long. (See p. 8.) Plus, on Wednesday, Oct. 12, the Museum offered free Museum Admission, Guided Mine Tour & Train Rides for all attendees and live glass bead-making demonstrations offered by Julie Lukosaitis of Beadazzled By Julz.

Julie Lukosaitis demonstrated the craft and history of making beads.

Mary Huck showed how some historic glass fluoresces under UV light.

Tours interpreted not only metallic mining, but also sand mining for glass.

Education

New Walking Tour Debuts

On Saturday, Oct. 15, visitors enjoyed the debut of "Land, Place, and Life: A Driftless Walking Tour." This guided tour from the Museum to portions of the David Canny Rountree Branch Trail explored the landscape of the Driftless Area and the Upper Mississippi Valley Mining District, explaining how the geographical features developed into a way of life from prehistory to the establishment of Wisconsin as the Badger State to the development of our contemporary community. Highlighting features of the past and present, topics included regional geology and ore deposits, the railroad and early industrial district, local pollinators and plant species, and more. This walk along a scenic trout stream is offered in partnership with the Platteville Community Arboretum and showcases local art installations and a variety of community development and historic preservation projects. The tour will be offered regularly in 2023.

Interested in serving as an occasional tour guide? Contact Erik at museumdirector@platteville.org.

The Walking Tour engages portions of the Rountree Branch Trail.

The Kopp Memorial Pollinator garden provides views of key species.

Education Specialist Marie Whisenant presents to a school field trip.

This fourth-grade class traveled from East Dubuque.

Writing Class Partnership

A new collaboration with Dr. Laura Roberts and her University of Wisconsin-Platteville Advanced Writing class started with visits to the Museum to meet our communications team, study our style guide, and become familar with our organization. Inspired by the Museum, students came up with a series of posters advertising Haunted Mine Tours. The students really enjoyed the challenge of incorporating pictures and text, while thinking about audience. Their next project is creating Instagram posts that could be used year round. We enjoyed working with the students to explore some real-life applications for professional writing skills.

Adanced Writing students designed fun Haunted Mine Tour posters.

Talk at Cornish Festival

Museum Director Erik Flesch presented a talk at the 2022 Cornish Festival & Celtic Celebration presented at the Masonic Temple in Mineral Point by the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society. The talk was titled "He Hewed to the Line and Was Foursquare: Charlie Curtis, Cornish Master Stonemason of Mineral Point and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin." Curtis was a Cornish-born stonemason who achieved prominence in the Mineral Point community with a variety of notable stone structures. After his tenure at Taliesin as resident mason in the 1930s, he helped to restore Mineral Point's Pendarvis, now a Wisconsin Historic Site. This public history topic connects the Cornish mining tradition with Driftless Area architecture and sense of place.

Erik Flesch spoke about famous Cornish stonemason Charlie Curtis.

Black Walnut Exploration

Pioneer Sweets and agriculture faculty advisor Dr. Tera Montgomery knew that the Museum was interested in an ice cream flavored with black walnuts. She thought this would be a good opportunity to find a student interested in learning how to forage for this plentiful wild nut, so she reached out to Dr. Evan Larson of Environmental Sciences and Society. Evan knew this was a job for John Rodwell, editor in chief of the Exponent. John collected 5 gallons of black walnuts in the back yard of the Museum and used a corn sheller to remove the hulls. The nuts are now drying so they can be cracked open around the holidays and offered to Pioneer Sweets for a new ice cream.

John Rodwell removed the hulls from black walnuts with a corn sheller.

Collections

Two-Year IMLS Grant Project Ends, Next Begins

The Museum staff held a going-away event for Sherri Hall, collections assistant, in August after her completion of all goals outlined in a two-year Inspire! Grant for Small Museums. We wish Sherri the best on her next adventures! With the help of volunteer Heidi Dyas-McBeth, Sherri finished cataloging the Found-in-Collections textiles, cataloged all numbered textiles, and photographed and cataloged all rolled oversized textiles.

The total number of artifacts cataloged under the two-year IMLS grant period (September 2020-August 2022) is 7,000, which was the goal set for the IMLS grant period. The total cataloged since the start of cataloging in PastPerfect (since August 2016) is 11,921. This is 34 % of our roughly 35,000-piece collection.

Over the next two years, the work plan is to carry out recommendations delineated in the grant-funded Collections Assessment for Preservation program (CAP), which focuses not only on cataloging, but on improving environmental conditions for collections storage.

Collections Assistant Sherri Hall completed all goals under an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant that ended Aug. 31. A new team will be recruited for the next two-year period.

Many of Rollo's Glass Artifacts Are Radioactive

The Museum's temporary Science and Art of Glass exhibit followed glass from its ore form as Driftless Area sandstone (St. Peter Formation) through its transformation into wondrous inventions like high-performance window panes produced right here in our region. It also included a selection of glass artifacts representing a cross section of everyday life in rural southwestern Wisconsin from the turn of the 19th century through the 1930s, when uranium was commonly used as an ingredient to color glass — a feature that causes the objects to fluoresce under ultraviolet light. As it turns out, many pieces of glass in Rollo Jamison's collection fluouresce. The radioactivity is detectable but not harmful, and makes a great display.

Buildings and Grounds

Hanmer Robbins Roof Replacement Complete

In October, after spring delays, Midwest Roofing of Dodgeville completed work on the grant-funded Hanmer Robbins building roof replacement project. The final projects on the 1905 building included metal belt course repair and sealing, brick tuckpointing, gutter replacement, trim and cupola painting, flat roof tear off and replacement, and roof flashing.

In February 2021, Grant County awarded the museum just over $330,000 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CLOSE Public Facilities funds secured by Grant County to replace the failing roof on the building. Its last roof job is estimated to have taken place in the 1950s.

Train Gets New Starter

Thanks to mechanic AJ Goodney, owner of Pink's Automotive in Lancaster and Goodney's Garage in Platteville, the 1933 Whitcomb mine train has a new starter. After the previous starter failed, AJ removed the old part and ordered and installed a new one within a couple of short days. AJ has adopted the train and keeps it running in tip-top shape, never asking for anything in return. Thank you, AJ Goodney!

Painting of cupola and ornamental facia and trim is complete.

Tuckpointing of open brick mortar joints was included in the project.

Support Your Museum

Challenge Grant Continued from page 1

awarded; and 2) to complete the 2022 Annual Fund, which funds general operation and all key public programs and initiatives for the year to come.

How do we achieve both our significant Annual Fund goals — which is never easy — and at the same time raise additional funds for a capital campaign feasibility study? The answer is: by taking advantage of this Challenge Grant!

Please make your contribution as generous as you can tby December 1 and have your gift matched dollar for dollar. Not only will this make the Feasibility Study possible, but it will also push the Annual Fund over the finish line. This year, we are especially grateful for your support.

If you have questions about the Challenge Grant, the Museum Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, the comprehensive plan, or Museum operations, please contact Museum Director Erik Flesch at (608) 348-3301.

Area Gem & Mineral Club Brings Great Volunteers

Laurie Trocke of Highland is the treasurer of the Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, which meets in southwestern Wisconsin to stimulate interest in the study of mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and archaeology. When approached by the Museum to collaborate on offering new programming at Mine Day, Laurie quickly organized a team of club members excited to help out — including herself and her husband, Dan, who brought hundreds of pounds of beautiful fluorescing rocks and minerals to enhance the UV Light Prospecting Mine Tour. Besides vendor tables, they also brought free games like panning for gems and minerals that visitors loved. The club has invited Museum Director Erik Flesch to speak at their annual show March 25-26 in Janesville next year.

Laurie and Dan Trocke brought minerals to display, games, and friends.

The wading pool that used to catch leaks in the attic now hosts games.

Museum Leadership

City of Platteville Museum Board
Eileen Nickels, President
Garrett Jones, Secretary
Brad Brogley
Kathy Connett
Deb Jenny
Mark Stead
Bill Van Deest

Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Board
Deb Jenny, President
Hap Daus, Vice President
Duane DeYoung, Treasurer
Dee Woolf, Secretary
Steve Bussan
Mark Haas
Eileen Nickels
Matthew Zielinski

Museum Staff
Erik Flesch, Museum Director
Angie Wright,
Museum Specialist–Communications
Marie Whisenant,
Museum Specialist–Education
Cindy Clayton,
Museum Specialist–Visitor Services
Amanda Zasada,
Communications Assistant
Tour Guides: Bruce Flesch, Diane Nusbaum, Elizabeth Pronchinske, Courtney Uncicker

Behind the Scenes

Letter From the Museum Director

As we approach the end of a wonderful daily tour season and enter the time of year when we focus on special seasonal programs, I am proud to reflect back on a number of "firsts" that complemented our usual slate of tours and events that made this year so special for our community of visitors. These truly reflect a commitment from our organization's supporters to prepare this Museum for the next generation.

This year many of you joined us as we launched our first UV Light Prospecting Mine Tour, enhanced Mine Day with a bluegrass festival and gem and mineral show component, hosted the Wisconsin Science Festival for the first time, and pioneered a new Walking Tour in partnership with the Platteville Community Arboretum. And people loved these fresh nodes of connectivity!

After two years of challenges to welcoming in-person visitors, it has been rewarding to enjoy crowds returning for school field trips, motorcoach bus tours, and General Museum Admission & Guided Mine Tours. Historic Re-enactment returned after a two-year hiatus and welcomed more than 3,000 visitors.

The Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums are working to raise a full $25,000 by Dec. 1 as part of a Challenge Grant intiated by a generous Platteville citizen — and we are already three-quarters of the way there. Not only will this Challenge Grant make a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study possible to prepare the Museum for the future, but it will also push the Annual Fund over the finish line. This year, I am especially grateful for your support.

Warm regards,

Erik Flesch, Museum Director
(608) 348-3301

P.S.Make your gift by Nov. 4 to attend the Friends Annual Meeting and Program pie and ice cream social!

Yes, I Wish to Have My Gift Matched Dollar for Dollar to Support the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study!

Once the Challenge Grant goal to raise $25K is met, the remainder will support Annual Fund operations and programs.

- The Friends are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EIN 39-1363989.
- Gifts are tax deductible to the limits of the law.
- You can give conveniently online: **www.mining.jamison.museum/donate**
- Please consider the Museums in your estate plans.

Please return this form and make checks payable to:

The Friends of the Mining
& Rollo Jamison Museums
P.O. Box 780
Platteville, WI 53818

Contact Erik Flesch at (608) 348-3301 or museumdirector@platteville.org with questions.

Name(s) for Acknowledgment: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP:_____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift Information ☐ Anonymous, please. ☐ I am interested to discuss a bequest.

☐ I/We enclose a $_____ gift in support of the Challenge.

☐ I/We enclose a restricted gift of $_____ for the following:

_____

☐ I/We Wish to be Sustainers and to a Make a Recurring Gift of $ _____

Account Type: Frequency: ☐ Monthly (~15th of month)

☐ Checking ☐ Savings ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

This sustaining gift will be ongoing until I contact the museum to change it or cancel.

Bank Name _____

Account # _____ Routing # _____

Signature: _____

Charge the One-Time Donation to: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CSC #: _____

Signature: _____

Your Support Puts History in the Hands of the Next Generation

Seasonal programs offered year round create lifelong learning opportunities that connect us to place and cultural heritage.

Your gifts will be matched dollar for dollar Sept. 1 through Dec. 1 to help prepare the Museum for amazing things to come in the future!

www.mining.jamison.museum

The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
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Contact Us!

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Platteville, WI 53818

(608) 348-3301

museums@platteville.org

Visit us on the web at **www.mining.jamison.museum**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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