The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Newsletter

Holidays 2023

The Annual Meeting and Program of the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums is at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9. The accomplishment and financial report will precede a gallery talk by the brewers of Platteville's new UpDraft brewery, a craft beer tasting and pie auction.

Friends Annual Meeting and Program Features UpDraft Gallery Talk, Beer Tasting, Pie Auction

This year's free Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Annual Meeting and Program will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9. To complement the annual report from Museum leaders, the program this year features a Gallery Talk and Craft Beer Tasting by Platteville's new UpDraft Brewery, plus homemade pie and Pioneer Sweets ice cream.

The FREE event is a benefit for 2023 members

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PBS 'Wisconsin Life' to Feature Our Own Heidi Dyas-McBeth on Nov. 16

On Nov. 16, PBS "Wisconsin Life" will feature Heidi Dyas-McBeth, who serves as Museum Collections Assistant and Tour Guide. In June, producer Joel Waldinger and videographer Lina Soblyt visited the Museum to film Heidi for the popular program, which airs statewide on Wisconsin Public Television. The program will explore Heidi's back story and artistic passions, and at the same time tell the story of the Museum and the 1845 Bevans Lead-Zinc mine. The production team filmed Heidi providing a special guided mine tour to a lucky group of invited guests, before visiting her home to see her art room and to talk about her creative endeavors outside the Museum.

Taxidermy conservator Terry Brown brought helpful care techniques to our collection of historic mounts. He took two key specimens, the pre-1920 Golden Eagle and Boxing Squirrels, to his home lab for restoration.

Caring for the Taxidermy

On Sept. 25-26 the Museum welcomed celebrated museum taxidermy conservator Terry Brown for a collections team seminar on safely handling, cleaning, and restoring a variety of mammal and bird

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Events & Programs

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

Thurs., November 9, 6 p.m.
Friends Annual Meeting

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of the Friends of the Museum and donors, and serves as a fundraiser encouraging visitors to join, renew, or make their annual gift, as well as to thank volunteers, donors, and board members. To renew or give, visit www.mining.jamison.museum/donate. Attendees will have time to mingle while sipping a selection of the flavorful, heartfelt brews UpDraft has created for their new Platteville brewery and taproom: a German Kolsch named "King Kolsch," a Fruit Beer (apple) named "Teacher's Pet," an American Porter named "Midnight Madness," and a Hazy IPA named "Better Half." A tasting and silent auction of delicous homemade pies will be featured as well.

The Annual Meeting portion of the evening will highlight 2023 accomplishments and reveal exciting plans and milestones for 2024. Following that, the Annual Program will include a gallery talk by Museum staff, with special guests John Patakos and Bryan Mulligan of UpDraft Brewery. "Making the Modern Kitchen" and "Fermenting the Driftless" will serve as backdrop for a fun and interactive conversation with the museum curatorial team and brewers will bring to life a sense of place of our Driftless Area landscape, and the art and science of harnessing this character to create the tastes of our place. RSVP if you can make it!

John Patakos and Bryan Mulligan of UpDraft Brewery will chat about flavor in the "Making the Modern Kitchen" and "Fermenting the Driftless" exhibits.

Dec. 1, 8 & 15, 4-8:30 p.m.
Holiday Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides: Family Wagon Seats up to 10

Join us for old-fashioned holiday horse-drawn carriage rides through downtown Platteville and learn some local history and key architectural landmarks! Enjoy the festive scenery and holiday lights around town with a beautiful team of Percheron draft horses and a friendly tour guide. Many area families have made these carriage rides an opportunity to get together each year as part of a special holiday reunion evening.

Each $120/carriage seats your private party of up to 10, so invite the friends and loved ones you would like to ride with you. Register online or by phone.

December 16, 4 p.m.
Holiday Mine Sing

Join us for a special evening of choral music representing holiday musical traditions of Germany and Cornwall — in a reflection of nations from which many of our region's founders immigrated. A traditional Christmas concert in the round circling the 14-foot holiday tree by the Madison Maennenchor featuring a selection of carols, both German and American, will be followed by the Chough Singers performing 50 feet underground in the Bevans Mine.

February 17, 2024, 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 real 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. Treat yourself and loved ones while supporting a good cause!

Old-Fashioned Holiday Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides!

Fridays, Dec. 1, 8 & 15 4-8:30 p.m. $120 per Carriage for Your Party | Advance Reservations Required

Education

Wisconsin Science Fest Program on Deep Time Forges 5th-Grade Affinities

During the week-long Wisconsin Science Festival that took place across the state the week of Oct. 16-22, the Museum encouraged visitors to unleash their curiosity with "An Exploration of Deep Time in the Driftless." All week, we offered a new tour with fun hands-on activities and special exhibits that delved into this deep subject — and we even made a new long-term relationship with the Platteville 5th Grade. Thanks to science teacher Vikki Peterson on the recommendation of Platteville School District Director of Continuous Improvement Brad Brogley with the, all 100 5th-grade students came for a field trip.

Key ideas presented in special guided tour content included the Geologic Time Scale based on early forms of life and mass extinctions, plate tectonics and continental drift, and radiometric dating for a general audience. Hands-on activities exploring relative versus absolute time included climbing a 90-stair geologic stratigraphic column, and using a Geiger counter to learn about measuring time through radioactive decay and radiometric dating. To engage the Museum cultural collection, we measured radioactivity in minerals as well as household objects, and identified materials using fluorescence through discovering the Household Objects That Glow Under Ultraviolet Light exhibit.

New interpretation, hands-on activities, and educational devices — including a dual-Pangaea globe funded by the Platteville Community Fund — interpreted Driftless Area time from the Paleozoic through the Ice Age to the Space Age.

Christina's geologic layer cake model demonstrated the law of superposition.

Marie and Christina showed how chert began as Ordovician siliceous ooze.

A cephalopod fossil (see p. 10) showed the marine environment of 465 MA.

Climbing out of Ordovician time meant each stair equaled 5.17 million years!

2023 Platteville High School Community Service Day

We were pleased to welcome nine Platteville High School students and faculty on Oct. 16 for the 2023 PHS Community Service Day. Students helped with sweeping the Hoist House and raking fall leaves along the visitor path and railroad tracks for safety and beauty. Service day coordinator Liz Peters describes the day as an important learning experience for high school students, and Museum staff certainly appreciate the extra help.

Buildings and Grounds

Key Diorama Framing and Wall Restoration Progress

Talented volunteers Martin Jacobson and Lynn Schlager have begun refinishing the gypsum-board wall surrounding a significant diorama in the Rock School building. The 1971 geological cross-section model includes interpretation of the various mining methods used during the distinct phases of metallic mining in the Upper Mississippi Valley lead-zinc district. It was designed by geologist Harris A. Palmer and Museum Director Tom Hendrickson, Jr. The wall paneling and framing had been demolished several years ago when relocation of the diorama was being considered.

Inaugural Fall Perennial Plant Sale Was a Success

On Sept. 16, dozens of gardeners turned out to stock their gardens with 38 varieties of beautiful native and hybrid ornamental perennial plants sourced from the Museum gardens. Plants from the Museum pollinator gardens along Main Street and Virgin Avenue were divided this spring and nurtured by master gardeners over the summer. Museum Board and Friends Board members graciously staffed the event. Proceeds of this Friends of the Museum fundraiser benefit the Gail & Wes Kopp Memorial Pollinator Garden.

Fraternity Volunteer Day Paired Goals with Brawn

On Sept. 14, Sigma Tau Gamma brothers from the UW-Platteville invested five hours on a Saturday to help the Museum staff. We worked on improving environmental conditions and organization for artifacts stored in a variety of behind-the-scenes spaces across the 3-acre Museum campus. Highlights included moving the World War I German mortar to the East Gallery, moving several wood stoves to the attic, millstones to the tennis court and carrying many heavy objects up and down the stairs to the Museum archives.

Mine Day Bluegrass Music & Family STEAM Festival (Aug. 12)

Dan Trocke and Badger Lapidary volunteers offered educational activities.

25th Annual Platteville Historic Re-enactment (Sept. 9-10)

This 25th weekend of living history welcomed more than 3,000 visitors!

Hap Daus and many others encouraged handicraft and lapidary hobbies.

Re-enactors presented facets of life in Wisconsin history from 1750-1840.

Haunted Mine Tours (Oct. 28)

Ghost miner volunteers had cues bringing drama to a historical script.

Each year we sell out these educational and atmospheric experiences.

Collections

Taxidermy Collection Conservation Initiated

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mounts — most more than 100 years old. The initiative was identified as highest priority under a grant-funded FAIC Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) project completed in 2020-2021. Pieces worked on by staff during the seminar include Rollo Jamison's pet skunk, Petunia, a loon, a whitetail deer head, and a pileated woodpecker. Brown has taken the Museum's 1917 golden eagle and pre-1920s boxing squirrel dioramas back to his home laboratory to clean and restore. This project is part of a multi-year collections initiative to preserve the heritage collection and make the artifacts that define southwestern Wisconsin more accessible to visitors now and for generations to come.

This project was made possible through generous grants and donations provided by the Platteville Community Fund, Wisconsin Historical Society, and private supporters of the Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums.

More Than 200 Artifacts Never Exhibited Before Are Now On Display

The vast majority of the extensive museum heritage collection is stored in behind-the-scenes spaces where most members of the public will never have the opportunity to see it. To remedy this situation and to make existing exhibits richer in content, visual appeal, and educational connectivity, Museum staff this year created five new exhibits and refreshed several others. So far, more than 200 artifacts never displayed before are now on display. New exhibits include Making the Modern Kitchen, Butter vs. Margarine in Wisconsin, The Cultural & Geological Origins of the China Cabinet, Household Objects That Glow Under Ultraviolet Light, and Fermenting the Driftless — housed in gorgeous glass and wood exhibit cabinets, three of which were donated earlier this year.

As a multi-year stewardship initiative and construction of a digital catalog continue to result in increased physical and intellectual control of the nearly 35,000-object heritage collection, the Museum staff is increasingly able to create new exhibits on relevant topics of interest.

Fall Artifact Stewardship Includes Outdoor Collections

Following up on recommendations from the Collections Assessment for Preservation list of high-priority stewardship tasks, the collections team in October took advantage of good weather to scrub the lichen and other organic growth from the outdoor agricultural and industrial artifact collection. Earlier in the summer, a spraying of Wet and Forget dried the organic growth to make it easier to remove. Artifacts under the tree line were particularly blanketed. These efforts help to extend the life of the artifact, and also helped to reveal the maker's marks.

Student Internships in Collections Management

Emma: Textile Study

UW-Platteville senior Emma Larsen works at the Museum by day as Facilities Maintenance Technician, but her passion is textile design and conservation. Doing research for a theatrical production of "Our Town," set in 1910s New England, Emma initiated a supervised independent project measuring and studying construction details of a mint green semi-formal dress in the Museum collection from the 1910s. The unpaid project is overseen by Museum Specialist-Collection Management Christina Grev and advised by Professor Gene Tesdahl and Sarah Strange, senior lecturer in performing and visual arts.

Mitchell: Collections Intern

Mitchell Brunmeier is a Public History senior with a love of the museum field. This fall he began a 24-hour one-credit volunteer project-based internship. His core project is removing documents from frames that are slipping or threatened by non-archival backing papers and frames. He is also gaining experience with a handheld light monitor device, systematically going through collections storage and exhibit spaces to collect data on exposure of artifacts to various wavelengths of light that hasten deterioration. Mitchell is now even being trained on use of the PastPerfect digital database so that he can assist with entering data into the artifact catalog.

Support Your Museum

Bill Huff Homecoming Reunion Reaffirms Values, Roots

In early October the Museum was honored to welcome home Platteville alumni Bill Huff, Steve Huff, Larry Jindra, and Eric Jindra. We look forward to the return of Bill and all who spent their formative years at the Wisconsin Institute of Technology — which many fellows fondly refer to as "Whiskey Tech" — Wisconsin State College, and the UW-Platteville. We are honored that Bill created a legacy fund this year to support the Museum — whose people, programs, and spaces serve as important institutional memory for:

• revealing the nature of the region that gave Wisconsin its Badger State identity and brought Platteville the world's largest letter M (for Mining)

• interpreting human life in the Driftless Area from the end of the last Ice Age through the Space Age by displaying its material culture

• championing a view of innovation for the future based upon the spirit of pioneering, which is timeless and relates a respect for the innovations of our grandparents to the innovations yet to come.

William Huff, seated, created a legacy fund this year to support education.

Steve Bussan, author and Friends Board director, encased this fossil in epoxy.

Exhibit Is Born

Dr. Jim Hamilton

Steve Bussan

A new fossil is now on prominent display in the East Gallery thanks to two men. The four-foot long cephalopod was donated by Dr. Jim Hamilton, who collected it in the field with his son. Author Steve Bussan spent countless hours encapsulating it in epoxy to make it presentable.

Museum Leadership

City of Platteville Museum Board

Brad Brogley, President
Garrett Jones, Secretary
Lawrence Bowden
Kathy Connett
Bob Gates
Deb Jenny
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–Administration
Christina Grev,
Museum Specialist–Collections Management
Marie Bakken,
Museum Specialist–Visitor Services
Heidi Dyas-McBeth, Collections Assistant
Kendall Miller, Communications Assistant
Tour Guides: Bruce Flesch, Ashten Wilson

Behind the Scenes

Letter From the Museum Director

Autumn is an important season of thanks at the Museum given our unique nature as both a local and regional treasure. You may know that the Museum is at once a department of the City of Platteville, Wisconsin, and a mission-driven entrepreneurial organization funded by the nonprofit Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. This time of year I encourage Museum lovers to reflect with gratitude on both aspects of the Museum's identity from the perspective of governance and annual funding, and to give thanks to all who are responsible for the small miracle that this significant institution represents.

On the one hand, the Museum Board was founded in 1964, and the people of the City of Platteville have provided a measure of support in the form of tax levy dollars for annual operations — and even provided referendum support in 1976 and 1981 to help the Museum achieve special milestones. Fall is when the City adopts its budget for the year to come.

On the other hand, philanthropy in the form of private gifts has always been critical to bridging the gap between municipal funding and fulfilling the Museum's mission — now more than ever. Among the popular fundraisers in the 1970s were pasty suppers and mine stock certificate drives offering free admission and guided mine tours. Today, the Friends of the Museum still raise funds through seasonal pasty sales *(Thank you to all who have ordered this year!)*, and folks still receive free admission and tours by becoming a member or making an Annual Fund gift! Fall is when the Friends of the Museum, like all nonprofits, graciously ask for year-end contributions.

Our supporters are geographically diverse — with only a percentage being residents of Platteville. I believe the reason for that is the regional, if not universal, nature of the ideas at the root of the Museum. It is a real badge of honor to know that across the Tristate area and beyond folks entrust the Museum with telling the story of 13,000 years of ingenuity on this landscape.

Wherever you are, thank you for being part of our community — and for being a part of our future.

Warm regards,

Erik Flesch, Museum Director

Yes, I Wish to Support the 2023 Annual Fund!

The Annual Fund directly supports Museum operations, key public programs and initiatives.

- 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 Annual Fund.

☐ 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 Inspires Excellence in Next Generation of Thinkers & Doers

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

Please consider making a year-end gift to support a slew of important initiatives in the year to come, and receive free general admission for a year!

www.mining.jamison.museum/donate

The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
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Contact Us!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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