

Mines of Spain State Recreation Area
E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center
8991 Bellevue Hts.
Dubuque, Iowa 52003-9214

NEWS RELEASE

The Friends of the Mines of Spain recently received a grant from the Mystique Casino/Dubuque Racing Association. The grant was for the amount of \$4840.07. The funds enabled the Friends of the Mines of Spain to purchase new equipment for the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. The equipment purchased includes microscopes, television monitor, flex-cam video lab, dissecting equipment, and an amplifier and speakers. The dissecting and compound microscopes, flex-cam, and monitor will be used in-doors for lab programs looking at specimens found out in the park. The flex-cam and monitor will also enable attendees to see what is under a microscope in an enlarged format. The wonder-scopes will be used for programs out in the park enabling attendees on a field trip to look at specimens immediately out in the field.

The E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center will have a 7400 square feet addition constructed during the next several months. One feature to the addition will be a natural resources lab. The microscopes, monitor and flex-cam are equipment that will be essential in providing programs to schools, youth groups, and the public in addition to schools utilizing the room as an off-campus class room. The amplifier and speakers will be utilized in creating a space where visitors can sit inside the center to watch birds at the feeders, while listening to them with the aid of a microphone.

The equipment will allow park staff and volunteers to provide programs that will be at a higher level of learning than in the past. With the aid of the new equipment visitors will be able to experience nature up close.

For more information about the program or the Mines of Spain call the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center at 563-556-.0620 to learn about upcoming programs visit the parks website at www.minesofspain.org.

For more information on this press release contact the park office at 556-0620 Wayne Buchholtz/Park Ranger