



# MINES OF SPAIN

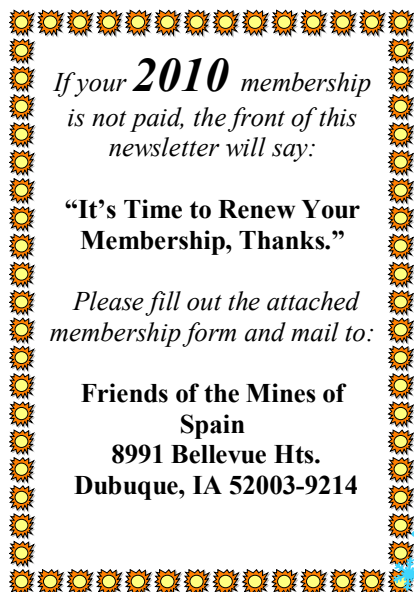
**Our Mission:** is to inform and educate the public in nature, ecology, conservation, greenbelt concept, natural history, archeology and current events pertaining to those topics.

Winter



[www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org)

2009



If your **2010** membership is not paid, the front of this newsletter will say:

**"It's Time to Renew Your Membership, Thanks."**

Please fill out the attached membership form and mail to:

Friends of the Mines of Spain  
8991 Bellevue Hts.  
Dubuque, IA 52003-9214

## Electronic News Letters

A new monthly electronic newsletter lets you know what is happening quickly and on time.

To receive you electronic newsletter please provide us with your email address. It will not be shared with others.

Send email address to [wayne.buchholtz@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:wayne.buchholtz@dnr.iowa.gov)

The bi-annual paper news letter will still be sent out in May and December of each year.



## Message from the President

It goes without saying that 2009 will go down as quite a memorable year for the Mines of Spain. After five years of planning, meetings, fund raising and hard work, the necessary funds for the EB Lyons Interpretive Center Building Addition have finally been raised.

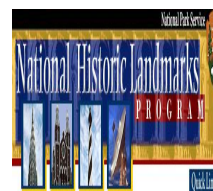
Ground breaking was August 24, 2009 and construction on the Addition began shortly thereafter. Donald Stumpf Construction is building the Addition and they appear to be on track to be completed in the spring of 2010. They are doing an awesome job.

I have, on a weekly basis, been visiting the construction site and documenting with photographs the progress that is being made. The paper plans, the floor layouts, the rooms, the learning spaces that were discussed and of which we all dreamed are finally taking shape in splendid fashion. Each time I visit, I can't help but think of all the hard work and generosity that went into what I am now seeing. It is at those times that I am truly amazed at the generosity of the almost 400 donors that are making it all possible.

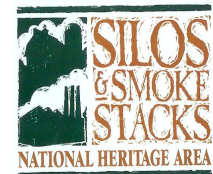
"Thank you" to all of you.

As you may know, the Center will be closed during construction until the Addition is complete next spring. When it does re-open, get ready. It is going to be well worth the wait.

Douglas G. Olk, MD  
President, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Mines of Spain



RECOGNIZED PARTNER SITE



Important

Bird

Area





## State Budget Cuts- You Can Make A Difference!

Next month, Iowa State Legislators will reconvene for the 2010 legislative session. One of the first and most significant tasks will be to create a budget for the upcoming fiscal year (2010-2011). Given current economic conditions, serious consideration is being given to additional cuts for many State programs. State Parks are among those under consideration. As you may know, the parks do not charge fees for admission; hence their funding for staffing (both full time and seasonal) as well as for maintenance of the Parks comes from the general fund budget.

This past year, the "budget crunch" resulted in a 25% reduction in funding since July 2009. This impacts all of us with less funding available to run and maintain the parks and to provide quality programs. Current projections are to cut funding up to another 20%! You can imagine that such an additional cut would have a dramatic and negative impact on our park and parks around the State. Many of the programs and services that have been provided at Mines of Spain would be in serious jeopardy. Now is the time to act! Legislators can and do listen to their constituents. Writing a letter now can help tremendously to shape their decision process for the upcoming session. Please write to them asking that they strongly consider limiting and/or minimizing any future budget cuts for State Parks for fiscal year 2010-2011. To find their addresses, go to this website and **type in your address.**

"<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/>" You can write a letter or email them.

Thank you for your help.

Doug Olk



## GRANTS

## WATER TRAIL

### RECEIVED:

#### Silos and Smokestacks—

\$3575.00 for new interpretive signs on the Lead Mines and Pine Chapel Trails

**City of Dubuque**— \$15,390.00 for tuck pointing the JD Monument, new signs, benches and railing by center.

**Iowa DNR**—\$6000.00 for Mississippi River Canoe Water Trail System

### APPLIED FOR:

**Audubon Society**— Funds to plant prairie grasses and forbs in south end of park.

**WildOnes**— Funds for planting prairie grasses and forbs in south end of park.

**NAI**— Funds for Park Packs for visitors to take when they are out hiking.



The City of Dubuque with the support of the Friends of Mines of Spain, Dubuque County Conservation, and Tri-state Trail Vision has applied for a grant for signage from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for a water trail along the Mississippi River and Catfish Creek. The grant has been approved for the amount of \$6000. The funds will be used to create maps of the route, kiosks that would be placed at the 4 access points and directional signs at designated locations. The access points will include AY McDonald and Riverview parks in Dubuque, Catfish Creek canoe landing in the Mines of Spain, and the boat ramp at Massey Landing. Directional Signs would be placed at both ends of the Peosta Channel, the mouth of Catfish Creek and the North end of Nine Mile Island. The water trail would allow watercraft to go up Catfish and Granger Creek as well as explore the Mississippi riverside of the Mines of Spain. An additional grant might be applied for in the future for a canoe/kayak access on the upstream portion of Catfish Creek.



## NEW GIFT SHOP TO OPEN



The E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center and the Mines of Spain Recreation Area occasionally have expenses not covered in their budgets. It could be a need for more bird food, nails, craft supplies for kids, program materials, or just about anything. The gift shop's earnings help cover these unexpected but essential incidentals.

Do you have any retail expertise? We would like to have a volunteer committee help set up and consider orders for the shop. Volunteering for the committee does not commit anyone to clerk. We need an input of ideas. If you can help, please contact Wayne at (563)556 0620 or Ann Ernst at (563)582-3721.

If you know of a local craft person who might like to submit articles for sale, please have them contact us. Some of our current themes are nature, local history, science, native animals, and fitness. It is hoped there will be items of interest for all ages.

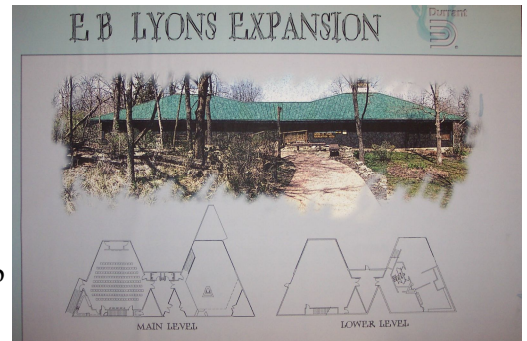
## UPDATE— E.B. LYONS BUILDING ADDITION

The E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center Project is coming along steady. The center is really starting to take shape. You can see where individual rooms are located and we can begin visualizing where furniture can sit. October construction started on the center. I can report that the last of the concrete was poured on December 4. All walls and sidewalks are now in place. The frame of the building is up and you can very easily see the layout and the size of the new addition along side the old. The library/reference room, science room, archive room and restrooms are framed out in the lower level of the addition. The restrooms and storage areas in the existing building are framed out and all interior walls that were in the building before construction started are gone. The roof and walls have the building about 80 percent enclosed at this time. The drawing to the left is the schematic of what the facility will look like when completed.



Building , photo by Doug Olk December 12, 2009

If you would like to help us reach our goal and to be a part of the Building Project by making a donation or pledge, please contact us at the Center at 556-0620 or go to our website “[www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org).”



Funds are still needed for the new exhibits and displays that will be added to the existing facility. The themes will include Julien Dubuque, Native Americans, Otto Junkermann, Lead Mining, Prairies, Forests and the River.

We are just over half way to our goal of \$300,000. If you would like to contribute to this fund please contact the park office at 563-556-0620 or email [wayne.buchholtzt@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:wayne.buchholtzt@dnr.iowa.gov)

Thank you for your support!



Multi-function Room, photo by Doug Olk

## Volunteers Needed

by Nancy Wright

As you know, progress is being made on our expansion project. With a projected opening of the addition in the spring of 2010, we will be in serious need of more volunteer workers. There are many ways in which volunteers can be of service. During the summer months, park staff members are often attending to their duties throughout the park. There is a need for people to come in on a regular basis to keep the nature center open for visitors. Duties at the center include answering the phone, greeting visitors and helping to answer their questions. We are in need of people who can come for one morning or one afternoon session on a weekly basis. There is also a need for volunteers who would be able to come in on week-ends, even if only once each month. There are many other opportunities to help with in maintaining the park. These duties include mowing, trimming, trail work and painting.

There are many different ways in which volunteers can contribute to the Mines of Spain. Perhaps you have a special talent or interest that you could share. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Wayne or Craig at 556-0620. We will be happy to talk with you and find a way for you to become involved at the Mines of Spain. Volunteers do make a difference!



**MAKE A DONATION TODAY**  
BY CHECK, STOCKS, MATERIALS, Pledges OR OTHER WAYS  
Go to [www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org) or call 563-556-0620

## EB Lyons Expansion

The Friends of the Mines of Spain Board is excited to report that we are actively moving forward on the EB Lyons Expansion Project. Plans are finalized to add the new addition to the existing structure, effectively doubling its size; while maintaining the original architectural design. Floor plans of the building are complete.

The new addition will feature a large room on the main floor; specifically for programs presentations and conferences. The lower level will have space for "hands-on" labs. Additional meeting rooms, office space, food preparation area and needed storage will also be included in the addition. Please go to our website at "[www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org)" to see actual plans for the addition.

We are in the phase of the project to raise the necessary funds. We are very pleased to report that we have already received approximately \$1,300,000 towards the project with \$500,000 to go. Many generous gifts have been donated to the project. We are very thankful for the generosity of so many people and businesses from the area and abroad.

The process of grant writing, direct mailings, and personal visits to potential donors continues. The State of Iowa has entered into an agreement to provide \$240,000 towards in-kind work, an expansion to the parking lot and upgrades to water and sewer on site. We are moving forward, donations are coming in and we are anxious to begin construction. All donors will be recognized in the new addition by their level of contribution as noted below.



- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ___ \$50,000-Bald Eagle Level        | ___ \$1000-Cedar Waxwing Level             |
| ___ \$25,000-Great Blue Heron Level  | ___ \$500-Eastern Bluebird Level           |
| ___ \$10,000-Barred Owl Level        | ___ \$250-Black-Capped Chickadee Level     |
| ___ \$5000-Pileated Woodpecker Level | ___ \$100-House Wren Level                 |
| ___ \$2500-Wood Duck Level           | ___ \$1-99-Ruby Throated Hummingbird Level |

*Please keep this worthwhile project in mind over the upcoming months as we contact many of you asking for your help. Please give generously.*

☐

Check here if your donation is restricted to the construction of the building only and not for marketing and fundraising.

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS TO PROGRAMMING

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: (NEW) Monthly Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of the Mines of Spain**

\_\_\_ \$20.00 Family    \_\_\_ \$10.00 Adult    \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation

*All Contributions are tax deductible and is towards membership for a calendar year*