



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

2009

If your **2009** 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 (page 6) and mail to

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2008 draws to a close, I would once again like to thank all of those that have made this year successful at the E.B Lyons Interpretive Center and the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. Your tremendous support has made for another great year. Whether you are a DNR staff member, a Director of the Friends of the Mines of Spain Board of Directors, one of many hard working volunteers or a financial contributor, you have all played a vital role in our success.

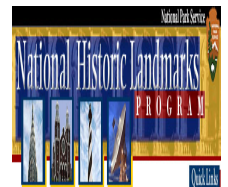
2009 is almost here and also has great promise. Please take note in this Newsletter of all the great programs and volunteer opportunities. Your interest and participation are greatly appreciated.

As you know, we are working fervently on the EB Lyons Building Expansion Project. This past year was a banner year for fund raising and we are nearing our goal. It is with great hope and expectation that 2009 will be “the year” that the remaining funds will be secured. Once completed, the Addition will more than double the size of the Center and will allow for many new and exciting program opportunities for all of us to enjoy. If you have not yet contributed, please be a part of this exciting project with either a donation or an In Kind pledge.

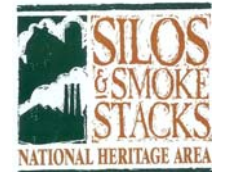
As always, please look for weekly announcements about upcoming events in the local paper or visit our ever popular website at “www.minesofspain.org”

Seasons Greetings to all!

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



RECOGNIZED PARTNER SITE



Important
Bird
Area



NEW
Coming Soon
To your Email

A new monthly electronic newsletter will start sometime in December 2008. Plans are to send a one page monthly newsletter with updates and program schedules.

To receive this new 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

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

IOWA'S FIRST LIBRARY

by

Mike Gibson

Friends of the MOS Board Member



Dubuque's Mines of Spain shared many of the characteristics of the Indian-French culture, but his large enterprise reflected the new world being born in the region. Nothing on the Upper Mississippi matched the extent of his operations. His business establishment included a wharf, a blacksmith shop and forge, a mill, a smelting furnace, as well as boats, mining equipment, livestock, cultivated farm land and the accoutrements of the fur trade. The Mines of Spain also included housing for himself—two dwellings—as well as for his French associates and several hundred Native Americans. It has been estimated that annu-

ally he shipped hundreds of thousands of pounds of lead to St., Louis and with the going price of lead at 5 cents/lb. his yearly income from mining alone was well over \$5,000 which was considerable for a frontier existence.

Dubuque was no backwoodsman; rather he was a miner and trader who lived like a *bourgeois* and a cultivated gentleman. All of his possessions of value were inventoried after his death in 1810. There were such items as umbrellas, raincoats, heavy boots, several pair of shoes, 3 pair of trousers, cloth shirts, handkerchiefs, waistcoats, 5 suits of clothes, and knee breeches. Furniture items included a painted armoire, a pedestal table, a walnut table, a writing desk with a sloped writing surface, all standard items to French homes in St. Louis or Montreal. He had fine glazed china dishes, coffee cups, tea chest and teapot, a coffee grinder, goblets, stemmed glasses, silver spoons, glass decanters, and a cast iron stove or cooking range.

But what is even more amazing is that Julien left behind a library of at least 58 books. Some are identified by title in the estate inventory. Among the reference books were two dictionaries, a five volume encyclopedia, political books by Montesquieu and John Locke, as well as literature and history but no titles were given. He also had personal letters, business ledgers, and maps. Dubuque's efforts to educate himself are reflected in the improvement of his written French and in his learning the English language. His personal library constituted the first library in what would later become the state of Iowa.

(to be continued)

HELP WANTED

By Ann Ernst

Grab your coat and get your hat. Leave your worries on the doorstep and come help at the Mines of Spain and E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center. Young, old, or in between—there are jobs for all!

Here are just a few:

- ⇒ Greeter and/or docent at the Interpretive Center
- ⇒ Office and gift shop assistant
- ⇒ Trail Groomer
- ⇒ Gardener
- ⇒ Shoveler and snow plower
- ⇒ Painter, cleaner or display arranger at the center
- ⇒ Seed gatherer
- ⇒ Usher for winter and summer programs
- ⇒ Program presenter
- ⇒ Guide for history and nature trail tours

Only two DNR employees are hired for the entire Mines of Spain. Without volunteers, doors may be locked, trails un-kept and some requests for programs denied. Call 563.556.060 or email wayne.buchholtz@dnr.iowa.gov if willing to consider being a MOS volunteer. Even if your time and talent is not available for one of the jobs listed above, please help by gathering litter if seen during your next visit to the Mines of Spain.

IMPORTANT NEWS IF OVER 70

After lengthy deliberation, Congress has extended the "IRA Charitable Rollover" legislation. If you are at least 70 1/2, you can make a charitable gift as a direct transfer from your IRA without tax or penalty. The legislation extends this opportunity, first enacted with the Pension Protection Act of 2006, to gifts made in 2008 and 2009 from an IRA. Gifts up to \$100,000 can be made each year. Contact your IRA custodian for necessary transfer forms. Please remember the Mines of Spain.

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE:

- ⇒ Stocks and bonds
- ⇒ In kind— materials and work
- ⇒ Proceeds from sale of goods (i.e. car)
- ⇒ Planned gifts, Wills—Estates
- ⇒ Memorials and tributes
- ⇒ Dubuque Community Foundation
- ⇒ Pensions
- ⇒ Profit sharing
- ⇒ Matching gifts (i.e. Business)

UPDATE— E.B. LYONS BUILDING ADDITION

Some commonly asked questions heard around the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center these days are “How is the building addition coming?” and “How much more money needs to be raised for the Building Project?”

It goes without saying that one of the most exciting and challenging projects that the Friends of the Mines of Spain has undertaken in recent years is the planning and fundraising for an extensive addition to the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center.

The plans for the addition have been prepared by The Durrant Group, the same group that designed the original building. The Addition will more than double the size of the current center by adding over 7000 square feet of new space. Like the current facility, it will have two levels. The top level will have a large multi-purpose auditorium; large enough to accommodate large programs, dinners and other special events. It will also feature new office space, a welcoming atrium, handicap accessible bathrooms, a kitchenette, displays, a new staircase and an elevator that will take visitors to the lower level.

The lower level will include a large nature lab, complete with lab tables, microscopes and equipment that students and visitors can use for exploring and learning about nature topics. It will also have a new library/conference room, an archive room and much needed storage space. Just outside the lower level will be an outdoor learning area and a memorial gazebo. The new facility promises to be spectacular both in its appearance and functionality!

So how much more money needs to be raised? The total cost estimate for the building itself is \$1,468,393. Some of this cost includes design expenses; most of which have already been paid. This leaves a remaining cost estimate of \$1,380,151. Through the tremendous generosity of over 300 donors we have a total of \$857,516 that is currently in savings, pledged as a future cash or In Kind donation. This means that we have a total of \$522,635 yet to raise.

In addition to the Building Addition itself, some ancillary projects are being planned. These include an addition to the parking lot, a new well and septic system. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has graciously agreed to complete those portions of the project; the estimated value of which is about \$400,000.

The Friends Group is actively and energetically seeking out additional funding sources to complete the fundraising portion of the project. This includes additional grant writing as well as specific requests being made to select corporations, foundations and individuals. It is our hope to have the necessary funds raised sometime in 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.”



INVASIVE SPECIES



The Mines of Spain staff and volunteers have been active in the removal of invasive species this past year and especially this fall. The past three months we have been taking out tree and shrubbery species that are considered non-native and/or invasive. *These species include, Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Russian Olive, Autumn Olive, Red Cedar, Nine-bark, Red Dossier Dogwood, Lilac and Box Elder.* These species have been cut, grubbed and shredded. Two machines were purchased by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for natural resource management in State Parks. The Mines of Spain Recreation Area was selected as one of the first parks to use them. The two machines consist of John Deere Skid Loaders. One has a cutter attachment and the second unit has a shredder attachment. The work has been completed on the Cedar Ridge and Prairie Ridge Trails, the wetland area, the main picnic area and along the road between Catfish Creek and the Horseshoe Quarry area. Some of these trees were planted in the 1980's for food supply

for wildlife, but it has become obvious that these species as well as others are taking over. Garlic Mustard has been a problem and continues to be. The trees only compound the problem and considering their size are ten times the problem. Without proper management of the natural resources, all we would eventually have would be invasive and non-native species. To learn more about what we are doing to manage the Mines of Spain or to volunteer with the important project, call the park office at 563-556-0620. Work will continue by hand using chainsaws and other equipment.

MAKE A DONATION TODAY
BY CHECK, STOCKS, MATERIALS, Pledges OR OTHER WAYS
Go to 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" 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.



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|--------------------------------------|--|
| ___ \$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.

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**

___ \$9.00 Family ___ \$5.00 Adult ___ \$2.00 Teenager _____ Additional Donation

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



2009 Winter Programs



Where:-----Mines of Spain Recreation Area E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center
8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA 52003

Time:-----Center is open 12:30 to 4:00 p.m,
Programs start at 1:00 p.m., last about one hour

Cost:-----Free - Everyone is Welcome

January 4- 1:00 p.m. – Trade Silver-In Celebration of Dubuque’s 175th Anniversary

Trade silver will be on display with information about its use. Learn about how people in the past used trade silver. Howard Higley will explain the origin

January 17—9:00 am—4:00 pm—Bald Eagle Watch

Grand River Center at Dubuque. Programs about Raptors including the Bald Eagle. Live Birds on hand. Displays from various sponsors and vendors. Call 563-556-0620 for more details.

January 18 – 1:00 pm -Geodes – Iowa’s State Rock

William G. Hosford is a storyteller, author and photographer in Lisbon, Iowa. His presentation will introduce rocks, minerals and geodes to kids of all ages. Book signing for “Geo the Geode” will follow the presentation and question and answer session.

January 24— Iowa Winter Games

Cross Country Ski races at the Mines of Spain on the Prairie Ridge and Cedar Ridge Trails. Races include classical and skate ski. Contact Earl Brimeyer for details and to sign up at 563-583-6345.

February 8- 1:00 p.m. –“Climate Change on the Arctic’s Edge,”

Dick Worm was a volunteer member of a research team for an Earthwatch Expedition, at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Churchill, Manitoba. Dick will talk about adding collecting information to classify ice crystals and measure snow depth, temperature, hardness, density and other characteristics of climate conditions in temperatures ranging down to -40 degrees F.

February 22- 1:00 p.m. –Fur Traders of the Upper Mississippi River

Mark Wagner, Chief Interpreter from the Mississippi River Museum will talk about furs that Native Americans and Europeans used for trade. Samples will be on hand

March 8- 1:00 p.m. – Bird Banding and Bird Identification

Dave Shealer, Professor at Loras College will provide a program on Bird Banding and Bird Identification. He will identify, weigh, measure, sex and determine their health.

March 22 – 1:00 pm --Digital Nature Photography

Ron Tigges has been a photographer in the Tri-State area for over 35 years. Digital photos of nature, landscapes and wildlife will be displayed as well as a discussion of camera techniques, locations, and digital manipulations



WATER TRAIL

By Charlie Winterwood



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 DNR for a water trail along the Mississippi River and Catfish Creek. Maps would be placed at the 4 access points: AY McDonald and Riverview parks in Dubuque, Catfish Creek boat landing in the Mines of Spain, and 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 Creeks as well as explore the Mississippi riverside of 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.

