



# 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/Spring**

**2007**

*If your 2007 membership is not paid, the front of this newsletter will be stamped with*

**“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**



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## Message from the President

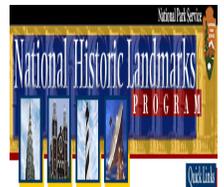
As 2006 draws to a close, I would like to thank all of those that have made this year successful at the E.B Lyons Interpretive Center and the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. Whether you are a DNR staff member, a Director of the Friends of the Mines of Spain Board of Directors, one of many hard working volunteers or a financial contributor; your efforts and generosity helped us have another great year. Thank you.

The upcoming 2007 also holds great promise. Many of the wonderful programs and volunteer opportunities are highlighted in this Newsletter. I hope that you will continue to be a part of our program and activities. Next time you are out, please think of bringing a friend who has not yet been here.

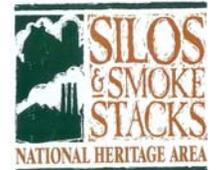
I am also happy to report that we are continuing to make progress with the EB Lyons Interpretive Center Addition Project. This past year we successfully completed a feasibility study, hired Traci LoBianco as our Grant Manager, formed a group of “Teams” (Marketing/Public Relations, Education/Program, Finance, and Leadership/Campaign) to help us move forward with the project. We are very pleased to have a number of volunteers serving on these Teams. New members are still welcome. We have also given a number of presentations to local groups; successfully gaining their support.

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

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



RECOGNIZED PARTNER SITE



Important



Area



**Natural Resource Restoration Efforts Continue:** Restoration continues in two aspects within the Mines of Spain. The first is the concentration of restoring savanna habit back to the park. Staff and volunteers have been working at restoring savannas on the Cedar Ridge Foot Trail, off from the Hunters Parking lot and along the Catfish Creek Foot Trail. Several Scouts have completed Eagle Scout Projects, University of Dubuque and Loras College Freshman, students from Wahlert High School and those that Dana Livingston has brought out have been eagerly cutting brush and trees to create these savannas. Many do not know, but the Amoco Pipeline runs through the park and bisects the Prairie Ridge Foot Trail. This past fall the company needed to cut trees so they could see the area where the line runs from an airplane. The company worked well with park staff to not just cut a fifty foot wide path, but they cleared more and left some toward the center to create a savanna area.

Just what is a savanna you might be asking? Descriptions and meanings vary depending whether you consider a savanna a forest, prairie or simply a habitat all its own. Look at it this way. A savanna is that transition somewhere between a forest and a prairie. You might look at it as a savanna in Africa. Here in Iowa it is a mix of prairie underneath with trees scattered throughout, mainly Burr Oak Trees. How many trees? It is hard to tell and what makes giving a description hard is that there are no good examples of an Oak Savanna left in the Midwest.

If interested stop by and we can direct you to one of the savanna restorations going on.



### **City of Dubuque Lends Support to Expansion of E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center**

The Friends of the Mines of Spain is seeking local, state, federal, and private grants and donations for the \$1.4 million expansion of the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center. To date, the Friends Group has raised nearly \$500,000 for the project.

The expansion would double the existing center, adding a multi-purpose room for programs and events, a biology lab for school programs, a library for reference and educational materials, and new exhibits interpreting the science and history of the region.

The Interpretive Center is owned by the City of Dubuque and is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, with administrative assistance from the Friends group.

The Mines of Spain is a significant resource for the Dubuque community. The park is a National Historic Landmark and a state preserve. It is host to 252 archeological sites of farming, Native Americans and lead mining. The Interpretive Center has displays on the Otto Junkermann farm site, prairies, lead mining, Native Americans, and wildlife of the park.

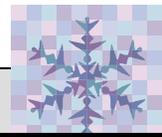
The City of Dubuque supports the expansion project because it is consistent with the City's long range goals. It will add to the economy and quality of life in our community. The project focuses on protecting and promoting the natural, cultural, historic, and archeological resources at the Mines of Spain. The expansion of the center furthers the education about and the protection of the natural, cultural, historic, and archeological resources at the Mines of Spain.

The City of Dubuque has committed \$30,000 towards the expansion project. The City's financial commitment is vital as a match for federal and state grants.

In addition to support from the Dubuque City Council, the Friends Group has received letters of support from the City's Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, and Park and Recreation Commission. These letters are important in showing community backing for the project when applying for grants or asking for private donations.

### **RSVP-----Looking for another way to volunteer?**

The Friends of the Mines of Spain are now partners with the RSVP program. RSVP is a nationwide volunteer program that invites adults 55 and over to use their life experience and skills to answer the call of their neighbors in need. You can volunteer from a few hours or up to 40 hours a week. As a volunteer with RSVP you are able to use your skills, receive supplemental accident and liability insurance and the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference. To sign up with RSVP contact them at them at 563-589-2622. Tell them the Mines of Spain sent you.



## WINTER PROGRAMS

**The center is open on various Sundays throughout the winter months from January to May. All programs are geared toward families. Come and enjoy the various programs and explore the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center**

**January 7 1:00-2:00 p.m. - Winter Brrrds!** – for ages 3-early elementary, with Jean Gullikson from the Dubuque Library, learn about birds thru stories, songs, crafts and other activities as a family. Plan to stay after the program to explore the Nature Center and the Mines of Spain.

**January 14 - 1:00 p.m., open to 4:00 p.m. – Amphibians and Reptiles,** Lee Jackson, Animal Husbandry at the River Museum, Learn about the conservation of reptiles and amphibians. Learn about various animals that are found both locally and globally. Live animals will be available for you to investigate

**January 28 – 1:00 p.m. open to 4:00 p.m. - History of the Mines of Spain.** Gerda Preston Hartmann, local historian Learn about the cultural history of this area as she goes through the farming, mining and family histories associated with the Mines of Span and Dubuque areas.

**February 4 - 1:00-2:00 p.m. - Snow Secrets,** - for ages 3-early elementary, with Jean Gullikson from the Dubuque Library, learn about secrets of nature thru stories, songs, crafts and other activities as a family. Plan to stay after the program to explore the Nature Center and the Mines of Spain.

**February 11- 1:00 p.m. open to 4:00 p.m. - Bird Banding and Bird Identification,** Dave Shealer, Professor at Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. . He will identify, weigh, measure, sex and determine their health. Assist in the capture of song birds and get a chance to hold and look at various song birds found in the area. This is a good chance to learn to identify and get familiar with birds at your feeders.

**February 25- 1:00 p.m. open to 4:00 p.m. –Predators of Paraguay** Jerry Zuercher, Professor at the University of Dubuque . Paraguay is a biologically divers nation in the heart of South America. Mammal predators are diverse throughout the country and have been the focus of study in eastern Paraguay since 1999. He will discuss diets and habitat associations by mammal predators in the Mbaracayu Forest Nature Reserve.

**March 4 -, 1:00-2:00 p.m. - Beneath Our Feet,** - for ages 3-early elementary, With Jean Gullikson from the Dubuque Library, learn about what you are walking on during a hike thru stories, songs, crafts and other activities as a family. Plan to stay after the program to explore the Nature Center and the Mines of Spain.

**March 11 - 1:00 p.m. open to 4:00 p.m. - Physiology of the Five Senses -** Jennifer Gavinski, Professor at Clark College, Presentation with hands on activities of the five senses – vision, hearing, taste and smell and how the human body responds to each physiologically. Learn about your five senses in family setting with nature versus scientific.

**March 25 – 1:00 p.m. open to 4:00 p.m. - Hiking and Where to Go.** Howard Higley, Mississippi River Hiking Club., Learn about the various hiking trails in the Mines of Spain Recreation. What is there to see and hear while on the trails? What habits are represented along the way?

**April - 1:00-2:00 p.m. - Spring Has Sprung,** - for ages 3-early elementary, with Jean Gullikson from the Dubuque Library, learn about spring and all the new growth and young thru stories, songs, crafts and other activities as a family. Plan to stay after the program to explore the Nature Center and the Mines of Spain.

**May- 1:00-2:00 p.m. - Iowa: State of Excitement,** - for ages 3-early elementary, with Jean Gullikson from the Dubuque Library, learn about Iowa and what all is out there waiting for you to explore thru stories, songs, crafts and other activities as a family. Plan to stay after the program to explore the Nature Center and the Mines of Spain.



## Message District Supervisor

As the district supervisor for the state parks of northeast Iowa I am fortunate to help oversee some of Iowa's finest state parks. One of the best parts of my job is working with those who commit themselves to maintaining and improving the state parks of northeast Iowa; the state park employees and volunteers. The volunteers in some of these state parks are organized into friends groups, as is the case with the Friends of the Mines of Spain. If you're one of these volunteers, you're in one of Iowa's leading group of volunteers.

The Friends of the Mines of Spain group was one of the first organized Friends groups in Iowa's state park system. The group is credited with leading the way for similar groups in Iowa with regard to formal organization, accomplishments and membership. It continues to set the pace in these areas.

I recently accepted the Keepers of the Land Outstanding Volunteer Group Award for the Friends of the Mines of Spain at a recognition dinner held in Des Moines. Each year, the outstanding members among those volunteers who provide service to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are nominated for department recognition and award. The awards are given on an annual basis through the DNR's Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program and represent the highest recognition the DNR provides to our volunteers. Awards are presented for five categories of service: youth, individual, group, large project, and small project.

Those of you in the Friends of Mines of Spain group were awarded this distinction because your group stood out in terms of accomplishments over time, exceptional successes with recruitment and membership numbers, partnerships, sponsoring successful events, etc. All nominees were evaluated based on exceptional achievement or contribution to Iowa's Natural Resources, length of volunteer service/work with volunteers, hours contributed, value to public, dollar value of supplies, equipment, etc., and number of volunteers involved. Not only did your group rise to the top of the heap, it is the second time you have won this award. The first time was in 2003. None of the Keepers of the Land awards have ever been won by an individual or group a second time, prior to this.

As members of the Friends of the Mines of Spain you receive this recognition because of the thousands of hours contributed on a yearly basis to a variety of projects and initiatives at the park. The contributions include staffing and providing programs at the interpretive center, completing park maintenance projects, natural areas restoration, and fundraising for various initiatives, the most recent being a \$1.5 million campaign to add 6,300 square feet to the existing interpretive center.

You have gotten the attention of those of us in state parks management and I sincerely appreciate all that you have done, from vacuuming floors in the nature center to leading the campaign to add the addition to the building. Not any one effort makes an award winning Friends group but collectively the contributions do. Congratulations!

Jerry Reisinger/ NE Iowa State Parks District Supervisor

## New at the Mines of Spain

Two of the entrances at the Mines of Spain have been refurbished in the last few months. The entrance off Olde Massey Road or the south entrance has a new stone portal for the sign thanks to Ben Blatz. Park staff and other volunteers completed the stone and wood fence on the other side of the road. Ben completed the portal for his Eagle Scout Award.



South Entrance

EB Lyons Center



At the E. B. Lyons Center Tyler Metcalf completed another stone entrance portal for the sign. Tyler completed this portal for his Eagle Scout Award.

Plans for next year – at the E. B. Lyons Center we will complete a stone and wood fence at the entrance, complete some stone work around signs and behind the center. At the north entrance of the Mines of Spain off Julien Dubuque Drive we will construct a stone portal and fence similar to the one at the south entrance. A stone portal will also be constructed at the entrance to the Riprow Valley Unit. We are also looking at other ideas for the stone we will have left over.



Log and stone fence at the south entrance

### Are you looking for something to do? Volunteer at the park doing a variety of things:

- greeter at the center
  - cleaning
  - staining/painting
  - doing programming
  - running the gift shop
  - keeping center open
  - gardening
  - trail work
  - mowing/trimming
  - office work
  - prairie work
  - savanna restorations
- Give us a call. There is always something to do.



## Early Lead Discovery and the Mines of Spain

by

Mike Gibson

Friends of the MOS Board Member

*Greetings From Dubuque*

As early as 1690, lead deposits were known to exist in the Upper Mississippi River valley. In that year a group of Miami Indians approached Nicholas Perrot, a French trader, in the hope of persuading him to establish a trading post near their village. To convince him, they gave him a lump of lead found on their land. The precise site of this post is unclear. From the account given by a member of the Perrot party, it would appear to have been on the eastern banks of the Mississippi just a little south of present day East Dubuque and directly across the river from the Mines of Spain.

Word of the great lead deposits spread quickly not only in America, but in Europe. As early of 1697, cartographers in France and Britain, preparing wildly inaccurate maps of the Great Lakes and the Upper Mississippi, locate in a more or less correct position the famous lead mines of the region. In 1700 a French explorer named Pierre LeSueur sailed up the Mississippi (the first to traverse the entire length of the river) and noted the presence of mining activity. Prior to 1762 the French were in control of the entire Upper Mississippi region which they called simply the Illinois Country. We know the names of few of these early French miners, Renault, DeGris, Cardinal, and Longe [sic] but little else about their specific locations or activities.

In 1780 an event occurred that provided some specific information about the mining activities just north of the present City of Dubuque. In the course of the French and Indian War, the French ceded their rights to the Mississippi Valley to Spain. The founding of St. Louis in 1764 provided a base for Spanish powers in this region. In 1778 Spain declared war on Great Britain which was then involved in the American Revolution. The British were concerned about this region because of supplies and munitions were reaching the American revolutionaries by way of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Hence, we can presume that the armies of George Washington fired shot made from lead at the Mines of Spain.

The British decided to launch a three-pronged attack on St. Louis. The northern arm of this plan provided that an army based in Mackinac would assemble at Prairie du Chien and proceed down river to join the assault on St. Louis. Captain Patrick Sinclair and Lieutenant Hesse proceeded with a motley crew of a thousand or so Indians, French traders, and a few British regulars down the Mississippi. On their ill fated journey, just north of present day Dubuque along the Turkey River they met up with a camp of about 17 miners under the leadership of Joseph Parent. The French miners refused to surrender and a few shots were fired but nobody was injured. Hesse raised the British flag over the mining camp and treated the miners as prisoners of war with Parent eventually being imprisoned in Montreal. Soon after this encounter, Hesse learned that the attack on St. Louis had failed and he and his motley crew headed back up river. The attempted British siege of St. Louis brought the Mines of Spain into the American Revolution despite that it was of small consequence.

But the winds of chain were blowing through the Upper Mississippi. The British take over of Canada in 1763 had increased the awareness of the great powers of the value of this region. Soon American and British fur traders would appear to challenge the French monopoly. Furthermore this trade in animal skins was more and more the province of big business as large companies sought to control it. The continued demand for furs combined with the scarcity of animals due to over-hunting, forced the Indian and fur trader who followed, farther and farther westward. They now stood at the door step of the Mississippi River Valley and would join those who had discovered the rich lead ore. In this time of transition, a new figure appeared a person whose life at the Mines of Spain would reflect the Indian-French trading culture as well as the changes which were occurring in it—this person was Julien Dubuque.

(to be continued)

**Riprow Valley News:** *“What a view”, “Never thought I would see the river from here”, “It is great to be able to sit here and watch the river go by”.* These and other comments like them are what we here recently with the removal of trees from the Mississippi River bank in the Riprow Valley area at the end of Julien Dubuque Drive. Nick Sisler removed about 300 Elder Trees to create a magnificent view of the river from the parking lot. Head down and spend a few minutes watching the river go by as you sit in your car. Plans call for benches and picnic tables as funds are available.



**MAKE A DONATION TODAY  
BY CHECK, STOCKS,  
MATERIALS OR OTHER WAYS**

**See "Message from the President "  
on Page 1 for updates on the project!**

**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 being finalized to add the new addition to the existing structure, effectively doubling its size; while maintaining the original architectural design.

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.

The next phase of the project will be to raise the necessary funds. We are very pleased to report that we have already received many generous gifts; most notably a sizable donation from Mrs. Jane Lyons (daughter-in-law of EB Lyons) and the EB Lyons Trust. We are very thankful for this generosity.

The process of grant writing, direct mailings and personal visits to potential donors has begun. An agency has been hired to complete a feasibility study of the project.. The State of Iowa has entered into an agreement to provide \$240,000 on in-kind work, an expansion to the parking lot and possible 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.*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS TO PROGRAMMING**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$9.00 Family    \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Adult    \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.00 Teenager  
*All Contributions are tax deductible and is towards membership for a calendar year*

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## **OUR MISSION**

The club is organized to inform and educate the public in nature, ecology, conservation, greenbelt concept, natural history, archeology and current events pertaining to those topics.

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Dubuque, Iowa 52003