



# 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.*

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

**Summer**

**2008**

*If your 2008 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**

## **Junkermann Farm site:**

The Mines of Spain will once again be home to a vineyard. Thanks to Silos and Smokestacks Heritage Area Grant we will be installing two vineyards down by the Otto Junkermann Farm site. Stonecliff Winery is ordering the seedlings. Watch for grapes this summer.

The Mines of Spain is now been upgraded to a Strategic Partner Site with Silos and Smokestacks Heritage Area.

## **Message from the President**

Can you believe that spring is finally here? After record snow fall this past winter and a very wet March we are sure to have a very green summer. And with that comes the promise of some great activities and opportunities at the EB Lyons Interpretive Center and the Mines of Spain Recreation Area.

As in previous years, we have a wide variety of activities planned for the entire family this summer. Beginning Saturday, May 10, 2008 there will be weekly Saturday AND Sunday scheduled programs. Please check this newsletter, our website "www.minesofspain.org" or the local newspaper for details. And please remember that all of these programs are free of charge.

Probably our greatest development over the last few months has been the great progress that has been made with the EB Lyons Expansion Project. At present we are about 2/3 of the way to our financial goal. This is in thanks to the many donors that have contributed over the past months. We are greatly appreciative.

It is our hope to have the final funding secured so that we can proceed with construction before the end of this year. The Expansion promises to add significantly to our ability to provide programming and opportunities to all that visit the Mines of Spain. If you have not yet donated and wish to do so; please do by going to our website or calling the Center.

I will close by once again thanking the many volunteers that have committed themselves so selflessly over the last few months to advancing the cause and projects of the Friends of the Mines of Spain.

Bravo!

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



RECOGNIZED PARTNER SITE



**Important  
Bird  
Area**



## Message from State Parks District Supervisor

Last year, the state parks of Iowa were fortunate to secure funding from Iowa's legislature for increased interpretive efforts and equipment and labor to remove invasive plant species from the state parks. The legislature provided \$470,000 for an annual appropriation and hopes to continue to fund the program at the same level in coming years. The Mines of Spain is one beneficiary of this funding.

The money has been used to buy equipment to remove woody plants from open fields and purchase a trailer full of water tanks, ATV's, fire retardant clothes, radios and other fire fighting equipment to be used to promote prairies by conducting controlled burns. Fire suppresses unwanted vegetation and allows prairie grasses and flowers to thrive.

Each year the Mines of Spain burns some 250+ acres of prairies and woodlands to help control invasive species and promote healthy growth of desirable species. The controlled burn equipment will be used to control these fires and be much appreciated by those who work under sometimes intense conditions to control a hot grass fire.

The money is also being used to hire seasonal interpreters and information aids across the state to help communicate the interesting stories about our natural world to individuals and groups. People who visit Iowa's state parks appreciate and want to know more about the geology, cultural history, flora, and fauna of the parks and this is especially true at the Mines of Spain.

The funding has also allowed the park to hire two people to work in the E.B. Lyons Nature Center, other parts of the park, and outside the park, to provide information to anyone interested in learning more about all facets of the park. Valerie Kimler is the park's newest seasonal interpreter and Emily Stecklein serves as the park's information aid. Be sure to say hello to them when you make your next park visit, and be ready to hear some fascinating and fun stories!

The Friends of the Mines of Spain also provides large helpings of information to visitors by volunteering at the visitor's center and meeting and greeting park visitors throughout the park. As the district supervisor for the state parks of NE Iowa I frequently look to the Friends of the Mines of Spain when modeling best management practices to other parks in the district and when I meet with Iowa's state parks management team. The Friends group is a great asset to the park and is comprised of wonderful personalities.

With continuation of the increased funding for the interpreters/invasive species program and with the immense help of the Friends group, the park is improving annually and there is no slow down in sight.

Jerry Reisinger, State Parks District Supervisor, Northeast Iowa

## EB Lyons Building Addition Update

Momentum is continuing with the center expansion. The final floor plans are complete and are found elsewhere in this newsletter. We are also finalizing plans for the septic and water upgrades. We are currently working with the City of Dubuque on plans to hook up to their systems. This would eliminate the need for a well, chlorination station and a new building to house these items. Plans are also completed for a fire lane that is required for access to the lower portion of the building.

A big change that is being implemented is to upgrade the existing building along with the new construction. Some asbestos abatement or removal is needed when demolition occurs to hook the new with the old. The Iowa DNR has agreed to take all the flooring out of the existing building. This will require all new flooring throughout. The Des Moines office has agreed to pay for new carpeting, linoleum, and tile and remove the existing flooring and asbestos. This in-turn has required the board to decide what new exhibits and displays will be developed and put in the existing areas. A committee is being formed for this and if you would like to assist with this part of the project please let the park staff know at 556-0620.

## Julien Dubuque: Married or Myth?

by

Mike Gibson

Friends of the MOS Board Member

When Dubuque came to the Mines of Spain he brought with him ten or eleven white or half-breed workers from Prairie du Chien. In so far as we know this contingent remained at the mines throughout his 22 years there. Just as with the fur trader these whites and half-breed miners lived in close relationship to the Native Americans, often resulting in bi-racial marriages and children. Whether or not Julien Dubuque had a wife is uncertain. Legend has it that he married an Indian maiden named Potosa, supposedly the daughter of the Mesquakie chieftain Peosta. Although the name Potosa might only be a garbled version of Peosta. It is likely that if he took a wife, it would have been a Native American because of the culture of the time. But such a marriage would not have resembled anything like modern marriages of today and certainly would have had no ceremonial, legal, or religious components. No children or direct descendants from such a marriage were ever reported.

In the 1830's, George Catlin, the artist, mentioned a number of bi-racial marriages present at the mines, although not specifically mentioning Julien Dubuque. An early Dubuque settler, Judge Thomas Wilson, recorded in the 1840's that it was reported "that the great object of Dubuque's life to find out how many Indian wives he could get, but he never kept but one at a time." However, there are clear references to a "Madame Dubuc" in two letters, one written by Francois LeSieur from St. Louis in 1809 and another from Nicolas Boilvin the same year closing with "give our greetings to Madame Dubuc". Possibly this Madame died shortly before Dubuque himself and may explain why a female skeleton was found next to Dubuque's grave in 1897. We do know that Dubuque employed a female servant, a half-breed by the name of Josette Antaya, and she married a Charles LaPoiné at Prairie du Chien in 1817, seven years after Julien's death. Another servant of Julien was a man named Patrice Roy and it seems like he and Josette cared for Dubuque just before he died. But they left no written records with which to shed further light on this puzzle in the personal life of Julien Dubuque.

Julien Dubuque did not live directly with the Native Americans at the mines. Lucius Langworthy many years later would write that "Dubuque was an Indian trader, who adopted their habits and customs, married into the tribe, and became a great chief among them." There is simply no evidence to suggest he ever became a member of the tribe, and certainly not a chieftain, and in fact, evidence reveals he lived not among them but further back from their camp in the hills of the bluffs. Nor did he adopt an Indian life style; on the contrary his life at the Mines of Spain was relatively luxurious considering his isolation on the frontier.

(To be continued)

### Volunteer at the Mines of Spain in a variety of ways:

- ♣ Work on trails
- ♣ Greet at the center
- ♣ Help in the gardens at the center
- ♣ Paint or stain
- ♣ Savanna and prairie restorations
- ♣ Clean aquariums/feed animals
- ♣ Research and cataloging

**Call today to start helping out!**

There is always something to do....  
...and we appreciate your help!

## A Message from the Department of Natural Resources

**Happy Spring!**

***Ah... we've been waiting so long and I'm sure all of you, just like me, can hardly wait to get outside and do something!! However, by the looks of things, it seems you've been keeping plenty busy and active all through the winter. In finishing up the gathering of all the 2007 volunteer hours, Wayne Buchholtz has reported an impressive 4,212 hours provided by Mines of Spain volunteers!***

***What an outstanding and dedicated group! As so many times during my time as volunteer program director, I continue to be humbled by all that our volunteers do for us. As I see all the 2007 hour reports rolling in, it's no different.***

***I am so excited to see what new events, marketing, fundraisers, etc. that are planned for Mines of Spain this spring and summer. Thanks again to our all-weather volunteers who keep the Mines among our state's most precious gems.***

Merry Rankin, Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program  
Director  
Wallace State Office Building

## **Driftless Area Program A Success**

109 people attended the April 18 program at Loras College. The program was a special fund raising event for the E B Lyons Interpretive Center Expansion Project.

Kevin Koch author of "Skiing at Midnight", Katie Fischer author of "Dreaming The Mississippi River" and the Unstrung Heroes with Lou Fautsch, Bob Dunn and Paul Benner provided an evening of song and writings put to music.

Almost \$600 was received from donations at this fine event.



### **Damage Occurs to Wildlife Blind**

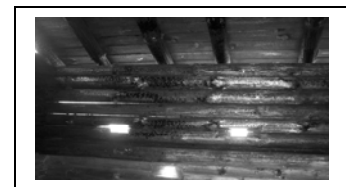


On April 15 I received a call that the Wildlife Observation Blind at the Horseshoe Bluff Wetland was on fire. The Keywest Fire Department responded and quickly put the fire out. The structure remains standing and is sound, BUT damage has occurred. At this time we are not certain if the structure can be cleaned and repaired or if it will need to be replaced. Estimated replacement costs is around \$10,000. This structure is constructed from 10 inch thick pine logs. This of course kept it from burning completely.

Good Samaritans did take the time to call 911 and to stay around to provide information to the Dubuque County Sheriffs Department and Park Ranger Wayne Buchholtz... Only information we have at this time is that it was teenagers and possibly three out at the park together. If anyone hears information about this incident please call the park office at 556-0620 or the Dubuque County Sheriffs Department.



WHO DID IT?



**Don't forget to visit our website  
"www.minesofspain.org"**

# SUMMER PROGRAMS

## Nature Day for Kids – Elementary Age

**FREE – 10:30 am to Noon**

**Parents welcome to stay but not required**

May 10 -	All about spring
May 17 -	Archeology
May 24-	BIRDS!
May 31 -	Scavenger Hunt
June 7 -	Reptile Romp
June 14 -	Father/Child Program- Creek Stompin'
June 21 -	It's finally summer!
June 28-	Habitat, habitat, a forest is a habitat!
July 12 -	Animal Tracks- Who just passed by?
July 19 -	Prairies
July 26 -	Critter Connection- Food Webs
August 2 -	Here Fishy, fishy, fishy.
August 9 -	Happy Birthday Smokey!
August 16-	Mammals
August 30-	Creepy Crawlies

Call the park office at 563-556-0620 for further details

## Programs for all ages

**May 4 – Record the Ribbit @  
Horseshoe Bluff Area**

**June 8- To be announced**

**June 22- To be announced**

**July 13 – Annual Butterfly Count, Start  
at EB Lyons Center**

**July 27- To be announced**

**August 10- To be announced**

**August 24- Hike in the Woods, Meet at  
Catfish Creek Foot Trail ,2 mile hike**

We have not confirmed all of the programs for the summer season at this time. Please contact the park office for updates or visit [www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org) for listings.



Visitors eager to learn at one of the many Exhibits in the center!



## Interpretive Center Assistant

Emily Stecklein to be Interpretive  
Center/Office Assistance for  
Summer Season

My name is Emily Stecklein, I am a recent graduate of Cornell College, with a double major in Biology and Environmental Studies. I am originally from Dubuque, Iowa and have been visiting the Mines of Spain Recreation Area all my life. I have spent the past two summers working with the Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources in Washington and with the Bureau of Land Management in California doing restoration work, trail maintenance and participating in user education. Some of my interests include, hiking, bird-watching, and spelunking. I am very excited to be working with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Natural Resource Management: Work continues at the Mines of Spain with the restoration of savannas and prairies. As you hike through the park this spring and summer you will notice that park staff and volunteers will be busy burning forests and prairies throughout the park. Work will also continue in restoring savannas in key areas of the park. Most of the savanna restoration is adjacent to prairies around the Prairie Ridge and Cedar Ridge Foot Trails.

Other work will continue with the removal of Garlic Mustard, Honeysuckle, and Buckthorn. These three species are invasive and it is important that they are removed and under control. If you would like to help with any of the natural resource management please contact us at the park office.



Wayne Burning a Prairie

## Meet the Summer Naturalist



Hi everyone! My name is Valerie Kimler and I'm the Naturalist for the Mines of Spain! I graduated May 2007 from the University of Dubuque with degrees in Biology and Environmental Science. I am originally from Bettendorf Iowa, but now call Dubuque my home. As the park's naturalist, I am responsible for taking care of the animals in the center, interpreting the beauty that is the Mines of Spain to our visitors, and planning and presenting programs. I already have lots of programs planned for this summer and fall – a Frog and Toad survey in May, summer camps in June and July, Nature Days for Kids on Saturdays, and lots of groups coming out on field trips (one group is doing a scavenger hunt and making animal track t-shirts!) I'm really looking forward to this summer and fall's activities and I hope to see all of you at some point!

## Summer Trail Projects Planned

Projects planned for this summer will include work on various trails throughout the park. The Iowa DNR will be sending a crew to the Mines of Spain this summer to work on several projects. They will concentrate on making repairs on the Pine Chapel and Lead Mine Trails. They will be adding stone steps to the Calcite and Julien Dubuque Trails. Other projects may include rerouting the lower portion of the Julien Dubuque Trail, adding guard rail to look out points on the Cattlesse and Catfish Creek Trails.

Their big project will be to create a trail in the old quarry that will connect the upper portion to the lower portion. Plans are to move rock and gravel in the quarry to create a slope where steps could then be added.



MAKE A DONATION TODAY  
BY CHECK, STOCKS, MATERIALS 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.

## 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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**Friends of the Mines of Spain  
8991 Bellevue Hts.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003**