



Spring 2009 Volume 31 Issue 2

Mysteries of the Mounds Now Open



What began several years ago as a dream became a reality a few weeks ago when the new permanent exhibit, *Mysteries of the Mounds*, opened at the Hoard Historical Museum. This new gallery includes a movie theater (above, left) which features a 17-minute video, titled *Mysteries of the Mounds*, as well as 7 cases containing the Lawton archaeological collection, once housed on the second floor of the Hoard House. Another popular exhibit feature is a diorama of a Late Woodland camp, complete with keyhole pit house, underground food storage, and campfires (below, left and right). Between the theater and the diorama are numerous panels interpreting indigenous cultural groups before, during, and after the time of mound building. Bring your family and friends for a visit!



401 Whitewater Avenue
 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
 920-563-7769
 fax 920-568-3203
 www.hoardmuseum.org
 Hours: Tuesday — Saturday
 9:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.
 9:30 — 4:30 (5/26 thru 9/5)

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Notes from the Director's Desk

by Kori Oberle

Wow! We did it! Together, we made the *Mysteries of the Mounds* gallery a reality! Here's a great big Thank You to everyone: members, donors, artists, volunteers, carpenters, archaeologists, content experts, designers, writers, producers, scholars, electrical wizards, instructional designers, artisans, board members, staff ... It truly takes a large group of talented and dedicated people to make a project of this scope and quality come to be.

We must thank one person in particular for his foresight regarding this area's Indian mounds. Longtime Fort Atkinson businessman and Emeritus Board Member of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society, Hugh Highsmith took the initiative to rescue from destruction 11 effigy and conical mounds along the shores of Lake Koshkonong. He also found the time and energy to research and write the book, *The Mounds of Koshkonong and Rock River*, published in 1997. He had the foresight to include in this book a complete reprint of the article, "The Archaeology of the Lake Koshkonong Region", written by H. L. Skavlem and A. B. Stout and first published in *The Wisconsin Archeologist* in 1908.

Thank you sincerely, Mr. Hugh Highsmith, for your significant contributions to documenting and preserving the area's cultural heritage, and to the *Mysteries of the Mounds* project.



We were proud to honor Mr. Hugh Highsmith (left) as part of the public opening of the *Mounds* gallery on Saturday, April 4. Thanks to him, the remaining 11 mounds of the General Atkinson grouping and a remnant of an ancient Indian trail, are now preserved as the Jefferson County Indian Mounds & Trail Park, and are accessible to all who wish to visit. Check out the huge turtle mound there!



Hoard Bulletin Board

-  The reception for this year's *4th-Grade Oral History Interview Project* takes place on Tuesday, May 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the Jones Family Gallery. Student work will be on exhibit through July 4. Special thanks to teachers and students at Barrie, Luther, Purdy, Rockwell, and St. Joe's Schools.
-  Save the date: Tuesday, June 16, is the opening of this year's *Artist Spotlight* exhibit featuring Dawn Hunter. There will be an Opening Reception with the artist that evening from 7:00 to 8:30.
-  What's going on with the **Hoard's Historians Enrichment Series**? On Saturday, June 20, at 2:00 p.m., Sue Hartwick will present her world-famous talk on the **Black Hawk War of 1832**.
-  Recommended Reading: *The Mounds of Koshkonong and Rock River*, by Hugh Highsmith and published in 1997 by the Fort Atkinson Historical Society and Highsmith Press.
-  Take Note: On October 9 and 10, the **2009 Local History & Historic Preservation Conference**, at the Plaza Hotel & Suites Conference Center in Wausau, Wisconsin, promises 24 sessions, 9 work shops, evening events, and an historic walking tour. It is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Council for Local History and the Wisconsin Historical Society. For more info, wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory.
-  Check out www.hoardmuseum.org to see what else is happening at the museum.

The 49th Annual Mary Hoard Art Show Opens May 3, 2009



Mary C. Hoard helped preserve Fort Atkinson's past for many years through pen, paintbrush, and a love of history.

The buzz about this year's art show is getting louder and louder! Mark your calendars and arrange your schedules to take part in the Opening Reception on Saturday, May 3, from 1:00 to 4:00. Thanks to our co-chairs Ann Engelman, Eve Horton, and Deb Wischau, and to our various team leaders and workers, this year's event promises to be very special.

In addition to the opening, there will also be a Gallery Talk on Wednesday, May 6, from 5:30 to 6:30. Artist Julia Ince will discuss the entries and answer questions. All awards will be presented on Saturday, May 16, at 4:00, at the close of the show.

To accommodate more visitors, the museum will remain open until 5:30 from Tuesday, May 5 through Friday, May 15. On Sunday, May 10, the museum will be open between 1:00 and 4:00. Come on over! Bring your neighbors!

Meet the Board Members: Tony Bolz

Tony Bolz was born and raised in Monroe, Wisconsin. He earned his undergraduate degree at UW-Oshkosh and it was there that he met his future wife, Jenny. Tony began his professional career in the Oshkosh Areas School district. He spent time as a third grade teacher before moving to Oshkosh North High School to teach mathematics. Tony completed his Masters Degree in Educational Administration at UW-Madison in 2001. His first position as an administrator was as an assistant middle school principal in the Oshkosh Area School District. The following year he was named Principal of Webster Stanley Middle School in Oshkosh.



I am extremely honored to be a member of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society Board. My goal as a board member is to make sure we continue to focus on the rich tradition already established while also providing leadership as we look toward the future.

A specific area of interest to me is to continually reach out to families by developing activities and programs designed to engage the youth of our community.

During the summer of 2003, Tony left the Oshkosh Area School District and joined the Fort Atkinson School District as Principal of Barrie Elementary School. He is now in the final stages of completing his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He spends his free time with family, golfing, reading, and running. He is also an active member of the Fort Atkinson Optimist Club. Tony and his wife, Jenny, live in Fort Atkinson and have been married for nine years. Jenny teaches kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary in Whitewater. They have two children, Tyler who is six years old, and Andrew who is four.

Saturday, September 26, 2009

Destination: Mineral Point



After our visit, you'll know why this dog is Mineral Point's mascot, and where it is located.

Plans are underway for a one-day bus trip to historic Mineral Point in Iowa County. The itinerary will include tours of Pendarvis Historic Site and Orchard Lawn, traditional pasty lunch, and time for strolling through several art studios or hiking the Merry Christmas Mine Hill.

One of the perks of being a member of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society is being eligible for a lower-cost ticket for this sure-to-be interesting and educational outing.



Known as Orchard Lawn and built shortly before the Civil War, the home of Joseph Gundry is now the home of the Mineral Point Historical Society.



The Museum is a Busy Place!



Bugs A Big Hit!

The UW-Madison Insect Ambassadors shared their love of bugs and insects with young people from across Jefferson County on the last Saturday of March.



The Collector's Show in March brought together 20 adult collectors and 8 youth collectors with stuff ranging from projectile points to potato mashers and from advertising signs to Black Hawk War artifacts. For three hours, it was *the* place to be!



How many people does it take to move a duck hunting boat? Eight: seven to move the boat and one to take the photo. Thanks to all who helped. That was one heavy boat!



Volunteer of the Year, Ann Engelman, at the Historical Society's Annual Dinner Meeting on Monday, February 16, enjoys her gift. We recognized Ann for her flexibility and her dedication.



Meet the Volunteers: Fare Thee Well, Mrs. Jean Tyler!

Yes, it's true: Mrs. Jean Tyler has flown east to Connecticut. Shown in the middle of the photo at the right is long-time member and volunteer, Jean Tyler. Jean and her husband, Dave, were Volunteers of the Year in 1987. She was also a founding member of the Black Hawk Artists.

On April 1, Jean flew out of Milwaukee with her daughter, Debra. When they arrived at Debra's farm in West Cornwall, they discovered that the April Fools Elves had been busy rearranging things. One of those elves is Margaret, Jean's granddaughter. Debra runs Motherhouse, a non-profit organization that provides place, support, and time for all mothers and their families. For more info, visit www.motherhouse.us. To send a note to Jean, address it to: Geer Village, Apt. 305, 77 S. Canaan Rd., Canaan, CT 06018. We thank you, Jean!



4th of July Ice Cream Social & Pie Auction



It won't be long now until the popular and tasty annual Ice Cream Social and Pie Auction returns on Saturday, July 4! This year's musical entertainment features bluegrass tunes and we have an order in for blue skies, nothing but blue skies.

Of course we have a few tricks up our sleeves to make this year's event unique and memorable, so you'll just have to show up, ready to be surprised. Remember, save room for dessert!

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The exterior of the Dwight Foster House will receive some needed attention in May and June this year when Craig Roost repairs, replaces, and repaints the building's clapboard siding and windows. Some of the picket fence will be removed on the west and north so that the property looks more like it is part of the museum complex. Stop by and say hello to Craig.

Springtime's wide
 water-
 yield
 but the field
 will return

Lorine Niedecker

Hoard HISTORICAL MUSEUM

FORT ATKINSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NATIONAL DAIRY SHRINE'S VISITORS CENTER

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Mark Your Calendar for the
Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival
Saturday and Sunday, October 3 & 4, 2009

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker have announced that the first Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival will take place on October 3 and 4, 2009. It will include workshops, poetry readings, presentations, and films. A writers workshop will be held on Blackhawk Island at Niedecker's cabin. Filmmaker Cathy Cook will show her recent work "The Immortal Cupboard" about Lorine Niedecker. A final schedule is in the works. This event will be the first Wisconsin Poetry Festival and plans are to make it a biennial event. Current partnerships include the Dwight Foster Public Library, the Hoard Historical Museum, Woodland Pattern Books, and the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. For more information about the Poetry Festival, contact Ann Engelman at 920-563-0416 or Amy Lutzke at 920-563-7790. www.lorineniedecker.org



Lorine
Niedecker
1903—1970