



News

VOLUME 18 • ISSUE #2

FALL, 2011

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

The IAM Awards Presentation took place in Bloomington at The Chateau Hotel on October 21, 2011. Here are the winners.

Non-Competitive Awards Educational Programs

Award of Merit

Downers Grove Park District Museum,
History Camp on the Road

Kline Creek Farm, Wheaton, |
A Day on the Farm Field Trip

Sycamore History Museum,
Junior Docent Program

Award of Excellence

DuPage Children's Museum,
Naperville,
*Chagall for Children Exhibit
Programming*

The Museums at Lisle Station
Park,
Chicago History Author Series



Chris Barry, DuPage
Children's Museum

Award of Superior Achievement

DuPage Children's Museum, Naperville,
*Forces and Motion:
A Professional Development Program*

Intuit: The Center for
Intuitive and
Outsider Art, Chicago,
*Teacher Fellowship
Program*

Midway Village Museum,
Rockford,
*Flying Solo: The
Remarkable Bessica
Raiche*



Mark Herman, Midway Village

Exhibits

Award of Merit

DuPage County Historical Museum,
Wheaton,
*DuPage County and the Civil War:
A Local Perspective*

Elmhurst Historical Museum,
Magical History Tour

Award of Excellence

Glencoe Historical Society,
*Civil War-Through the Eyes of Glencoe
Veterans*

Mitchell Museum of the American
Indian, Evanston, *Dazzling Colors: The
Evolution of Plains Reservation Art*

Jack Olson Gallery, NIU, DeKalb,
Tattoo: An American Evolution

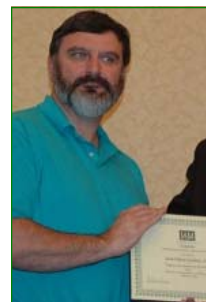
NIU University Art Museum, DeKalb,
*Music to My Eyes: Musical Instruments
as Visual Art*

Sycamore Historical
Society,
*Heartbeat of a
Community: Downtown
Sycamore*

Vermilion County
Museum Society,
Danville,
Puzzle Cubes



Laura McDowell &
Kathleen McDonald,
Mitchell Museum



Peter Van Ael,
Olson Gallery, NIU



Peter Olson and Jo Burke,
NIU Art Museum



Sue Richter,
Vermilion Co.
Museum Soc.

Winnetka Historical Society,
*Serving All Fronts: Winnetka & World
War II*



Patti Van Cleave &
Katie Macica,
Winnetka Historical
Society

More Awards

Illinois Association of Museums

1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701
217/524-6977 Fax: 217/785-7937

HPA.IAM@illinois.gov
<www.illinoismuseums.org>

President:

David Becker,
Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield

Vice-President:

Kim Stull,
DuPage Children's Museum, Naperville

Secretary:

Martha Jane Downey,
Bishop Hill State Historic Site, Bishop Hill

Treasurer:

Kate Schureman,
Lakeview Museum, Peoria

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Huitt, Springfield
HPA.IAM@illinois.gov

Join the IAM List Serve at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IAM_ListServ/

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The Illinois Association of Museums, organized in 1994, is composed of museums, historical and genealogical societies, zoos, arboreta, and other cultural and educational agencies in Illinois that are involved in the preservation and interpretation of history, pre-history, natural and built environments, and social, scientific, cultural, and/or artistic endeavors.

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Charlotte
Renahan,
Grayslake HS

Award of Superior Achievement

Grayslake Historical Society,
Embracing Change: The Growth of Grayslake

Illinois State Museum, Springfield,
Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum

Joliet Area Historical Museum, *Bucket Brigades to Tactical Units: Joliet's Fire & Police Departments*

Heather Bigeck & Barb
Newberg, Joliet Area HM



Dr. Bonnie
Styles,
Illinois State
Museum



Promotional Materials

Award of Merit

Adler Planetarium, Chicago,
Adler Planetarium 2010 Annual Report to Donors



Dorothy Otis,
Marengo



Kate Gaskill, Adler

Award of Excellence

Marengo Society for Historic Preservation,
Classic American Architecture in Marengo, Number 8 of Calendar Series

Award of Superior Achievement

Robert R. McCormick Museum,
Wheaton,
Museum Brochure

Scholarly Publications

Award of Excellence

Vermilion County Museum Society, Danville,
Vermilion County and the Civil War



Sue Richter, Vermilion Co. MS

Cont'd on page 5

Letter from the President



Dear Members,

This issue highlights one of my favorite events of the year, our annual IAM awards banquet. I am always amazed by the incredibly high level of creativity that is demonstrated by each of our award winners, regardless of the size or budget of organization. It reminds me that good work is not an accident; it is done by people who care about their work. This is evident throughout the museum community, and certainly by this year's award winners. I invite you to call your colleagues and congratulate them on a job well done.

For us at IAM, the completion of the annual IAM Awards Banquet means that it is time for us to turn our attention toward one of our highest priorities, **Museum Advocacy Day**. If you have not yet attended, we need you to add your presence to our collective voice in promoting the importance of Illinois museums in our state and in our local communities. As in previous years, Museum Day will be held in Springfield in early March, with the exact date to be announced soon on the IAM listserve, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IAM_ListServ/ I hope to see many of you there.

I would also like to take a moment to welcome our new IAM Board Members: **Mary Lou Galloway** of the Southern Illinois Art & Artisans Center, **Sharon Bradham** of Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, **Kim Sheahan** of Spurlock Museum, **Jeff Woodward** of McLean County Historical Museum, **Leslie Goddard** of Morton Arboretum, **Susan Haake** of Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and **Matthew Toland** of Campbell Center for Historic Preservation. I look forward to working with all of you in 2012 and beyond.

Happy Holidays to all of our IAM Members. I wish you all the best in 2012 and look forward to an exciting year ahead of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dave Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sincerely,

Dave Becker, President

State & National Organizations...



Association of Midwest Museums Announces its 2012 Conference

Make plans now to join us for the 2012 AMM Conference, *Civic Engagement and Public Discourse: The Role of Museums in the 21st Century*, **July 23-26** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. We're very excited to return to Indianapolis and we're looking forward to another outstanding conference. Indianapolis is a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly, and affordable city and we're sure you will enjoy visiting the many fabulous museums in Indianapolis during the conference. Learn more at <http://www.midwestmuseums.org/>.



Help is on the Way! Guidance Program for Small and Mid-Sized Museums

"Having this experience was an amazing opportunity for our organization. Keep letting smaller museums know that MAP can work for them!" - Michelle J. Donahoe, Director, Sycamore History Museum, Illinois

Consider participating in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP), which assists all types of small and mid-size museums (e.g., aquariums, art, history, natural history, public gardens, science centers and zoos). While engaging in guided self study, your museum will be matched with an expert peer reviewer who will provide a customized site visit and report. In less than a year, MAP will help you develop strategies for improved operations, planning, staff and board education and fundraising.

Since 1981, over 4,300 organizations have participated in MAP as a low-cost method of becoming more sustainable. Become the next museum to take advantage of MAP. The next application deadline is **December 1**.

Visit www.aam-us.org/map for more information about MAP. You can also email map@aam-us.org or call 202-289-9118. MAP is administered by the American Association of Museums and supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Lauren Silberman

Coordinator, Museum Assessment Program

T: (202)218-7714 | F: (202)289-6578

lsilberman@aam-us.org

American Association of Museums

1575 Eye Street NW, Suite 400 | Washington DC 20005

www.aam-us.org

When Water Emergencies Strike Your Collection: Response Training & Workshop



The **Illinois Collections Preservation Network** and the **Illinois State Museum** and its partners invite you to attend a **FREE** one day workshop designed to give you an introduction to preparing for and responding to disasters at your institution.

Attendees will participate in a hands-on salvage exercise.

Presenters include Pat Miller, first responders from the area, and Conservators Bronwyn Eves and Bonnie Parr.

Dates and Venues of the 2012 workshops:

March 27 McLafferty Annex--SIUC
Carbondale

April 18 Douglas County Museum
Tuscola

May 10 Western Illinois Museum
Macomb

June 11 Naper Settlement Naperville

July 9 Freeport Art Museum
Freeport

All workshops are 9am-3pm and lunch will be provided.

JOIN the ICPN to attend the workshop: Membership is **FREE**.

Contact Bronwyn Eves at (217)524-0498 or beves@museum.state.il.us.

More Awards

Special Projects

Award of Merit

Geneva History Center,
StoryCorps Partnership for Geneva's 175th Anniversary

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society, Lake Forest, *Timeline of Lake Forest History*



Dorothy Otis,
Marengo

Award of Excellence

Marengo Society for Historic Preservation,
Marengo 175 Years, 1835-2010



Louise Howard & Sarah Buhlig,
Naper Settlement

Award of Superior Achievement

Naperville Heritage Society/Naper Settlement,
On the Road: 2011 Summer Guidebook

Naper Settlement/Naperville Heritage Society,
Public Safety Preservation Project-Phase 1 (Naperville Fire Department)

Winnetka Historical Society,
Winnetka Story Documentary



Susan Whitcomb & John Newcombe,
Winnetka Historical Society

Competitive Awards

Volunteer of the Year

Lake County Discovery Museum,
Wauconda,
Karen Beasley



Professional of the Year

McHenry County Historical Society,
Union,
Grace Moline



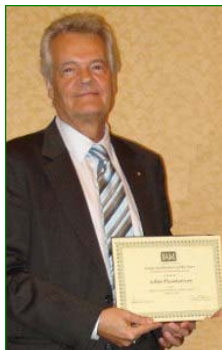
Large Institution of the Year

Adler Planetarium,
Chicago



Lifetime Volunteer Achievement

Glencoe Historical Society,
Ellen Shubart



Lifetime Professional Achievement Award

Adler Planetarium, Chicago,
Paul H. Knappenberger Jr.

Also given **Service Awards** for their long service to the IAM Board of Directors were **Shari Buckellew** (left), **Diane Gutenkauf**, (right) and **Debra Taves** as they left the Board. See page 6 for a list of the new Board.



IAM Board Members in 2012

At the IAM Annual Meeting in Bloomington on October 21, 2011, there was an election of board members. Here is the list of officers and other directors, the expiration date of their term, and the organization at which they work.

Officers

President: David Becker, 2013
Chicago Zoological Society

Vice-President: Kim Stull, 2013
DuPage Children's Museum

Immediate Past-President: David Oberg, 2013
Grayslake Heritage Center

Secretary: Martha Downey, 2012
Bishop Hill State Historic Site

Treasurer: Kate Schureman, 2012
Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences

Directors-at-Large:

Susan M. Haake, 2014
Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Matthew Toland, 2012
Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies

Directors, Region 1: Southern Illinois

Mary Lou Galloway, 2013
Southern Illinois Art & Artisans Center

Claudia Dant, 2014
Wabash County Museum

Sharon Bradham, 2012
Cedarhurst Center for the Arts

Directors, Region 2: East-central Illinois

Kim Sheahan, 2013
Spurlock Museum

Jeff Woodward, 2013
McLean County Historical Museum

Rick Riccio, 2012
Riccio Exhibit Services

Directors, Region 3: West-central Illinois

Jim Matheis, 2013
Abraham Lincoln Memorial Gardens

Barb Wilkinson, 2014
The Quincy Museum

Eric Barnett, 2012
University Museum, SIU-E

Directors, Region 4: Northwest Illinois

Mollie Perrot, 2013
Ottawa Scouting Museum

Sarah Wolf, 2014
Discovery Center Museum

Laura Furman, 2012
Midway Village & Museum Center

Directors, Region 5: Northeast Illinois

Peggie Stromberg, 2013
Elgin Public Museum

Leslie Goddard, 2014
Morton Arboretum

Peggy Frank, 2012
Naper Settlement/Naperville Heritage Society

ISM Representative: Karen Witter

IHPA Representative: Karen Everingham



IAM Members gathered at the Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting at the Chateau Hotel in Bloomington. New Directors were voted in as three Directors retired.

Research + Collaboration = Exhibit

Historical Research and Collaboration Leads to New Exhibit

The exhibit *Enduring Legacy: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Coles County, 1935-1941* opened on August 27 and will remain on view through the end of May 2012. It is located in the **Sargent Gallery of the Visitor Center** at the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site. The Visitor Center's hours are 9-4 Wednesday through Sunday.

Nationwide it is estimated that the Civilian Conservation Corps planted nearly 3 billion trees, built over 800 state parks, paved countless miles of roadways, conserved acres of farmland, and developed the modern principles of environmental conservation. In Coles County the work of the CCC enrollees left a legacy of natural, cultural, and historic resources. In the 75 years since the development of Fox Ridge State Park, the Moore Home, and Lincoln Log Cabin, these places have served to define the community, just as community members in the 1930s had hoped.

With the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, an exhibit examining the origins of the site and the activities of the two Civilian Conservation Corps camps located in Charleston, Illinois focuses on the themes of: collaboration and cooperation among the local community, the state of Illinois, and the federal programs of the CCC and the National Park Service; camp life for the enrollees; and the creation of three signature sites still in existence today.

We recreated a sense of the barracks with a metal bed (footboard) and a wooden construction intended to invoke a sense of the barracks as seen in the enlarged photos on each side of the barracks display. The uniform belonged to the man in the central picture and he was enrolled in Camp Charleston from 1939 to 1940. That is also his CCC sweater, belt, and footlocker. We also have his banner that hung near his bed and his autograph book.

The other scene depicts the dedication of Lincoln Log Cabin on August 27, 1936 and features the handwritten speech that Horner gave at the dedication that day. We discovered his handwritten speech in the ALPLM Horner archives.

Evolution of an Exhibition

Prior to the 75th anniversary of Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, Lori Henderson began research on the activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Coles County for her graduate degree in Eastern Illinois University's historical administration program. Her role as board president of the Lincoln-Sargent Farm Foundation, (a nonprofit providing philanthropic support

Foundation, (a nonprofit providing philanthropic support for the site), and her graduate candidacy in the historical administration program led her to explore the possibility of creating an exhibit from the CCC research in order to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the site.

With the assistance of the Alderson Internship Grant from the American Association of State and Local History and the support of the LSFF, we were able to hire Maggie McAdams, also a graduate candidate in EIU's HA program and the LSFF's graduate assistant at the site, to assist with the remaining research and the production of the exhibit. Maggie headed up the design and fabrication elements of the exhibit, collection and conservation of the artifacts, as well as engaging in additional research needed to tell the story of the genesis of the site. Maren McKee, also a graduate candidate in EIU's HA program and this year's LSFF graduate assistant, provided administrative and research assistance.

Matthew Mittelstaedt, LLCSHS site manager, provided research guidance and networked us to additional research institutions. Rick Riccio, Riccio Exhibit Services, and Larry Gutzler, LSFF board member, provided critical carpentry expertise. Mattoon's First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust sponsored the exhibit with a generous donation. Mentoring and encouragement from the graduate faculty in the EIU history department kept everyone motivated.



Local people came forward with incredible stories and artifacts and Ruth Hawkins shared her father's story and photos of teaching at the CCC camp. Christine Sawyer shared her brother's footlocker which housed a treasure trove of artifacts from Camp Charleston including his uniform, autograph book, camp newspapers, banner, and photos. We met several CCC camp enrollees including Dean Ferris who loaned us his photos.

A successful collaboration and spirit of cooperation among the local community, the state of Illinois, and the federal programs of the Civilian Conservation Corp and the National Park Service resulted in the creation of three signature sites during the Great Depression that endure today. Learning of the commitment that the local community brought to the projects in the 1930s inspires us to call for a renewed commitment from the community to not only sustain these sites but strive to improve them. — Story provided by Lori Henderson

Illinois is Growing Museums!

New and Expanded Museums in 2011

The **Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society** has opened up a new museum. The Lincoln-Manahan Home Museum is located at 607 E. 3rd St. in Sterling. One of the oldest homes in the area, the original part of the house was built in 1847. The home is furnished as it would have been in 1856 when Abraham Lincoln stayed there on July 18 after speaking at a Republican rally in Sterling. Lincoln was the guest of abolitionist Sheriff William Manahan.

Dedicated on July 18, 2011 the home had been open by appointment until regular open hours began in October, Saturday and Sunday 1-4 pm. The home will be open by appointment from November 1 to April 1, then regular open hours will resume. Appointments can be made by calling 815-622-6215. See more at <http://www.svonline.net/~srfhs/>.

The Horse and Buggy Museum

in Biggsville is celebrating five years of business with some exciting new additions. Five new kiosks have been added to the wireless network making more than 80 videos available for interactive viewing. A 60 inch LED TV has been added to the handicapped viewing theater.



The 19th century Biggsville history display area is being expanded. One of the new displays has over 200 items of Native American Artifacts that Dave Hill, a local farmer, had found on his farms. Other Biggsville area residents have indicated interest in displaying their 19th century artifacts. The museum's new web site is: www.horseandbuggymuseum.com

On October 12, 2011 the **Glen Carbon Heritage Museum** cut the ceremonial ribbon for the dedication of their newest addition to the museum. Thanks to a grant from the Goshen Rotary; Sheila Martin, Museum Aide said, "This pavilion will allow the museum to create programs outdoors to educate visitors to how Glen Carbon came into being.



The members of the Goshen Rotary, financed and with a little help from the village public works department, built the new pavilion in back of the museum building.

The Pontiac-Oakland Museum & Resource Center

located in downtown Pontiac, Illinois opened its doors July 23, 2011. It is housed in an historic building on the west side of the city square. Among the building's features



are wood floors and tin ceilings that works well to showcase the vintage vehicles which date back to the 1890s. This is the only museum in the country dedicated to preserving the history of the Pontiac automobile which began with a buggy in 1893 and continued through 2010 when General Motors ended production. Most visitors have memories associated with one of the many models of Pontiac which once were commonly seen on America's roads; names such as Star Chief, Bonneville, Catalina, Grand Prix, GTO, Firebird and many more. Some of the cars are displayed in vignettes featuring period items in settings appropriate for the car. There is a 1964 Safari station wagon in a camping scene, an un-restored 1924 Oakland out by the barn, a 1950 Pontiac in the garage being worked on and others.

In addition to the many wonderful vehicles on display there are oak display cases filled with Pontiac and Oakland memorabilia; promotional items



and rare one-of-a-kind historic items from the once venerable company. A major feature of the museum is its library which houses the largest collection of Pontiac and Oakland material in the country. With assistance visitors can peruse the many shop manuals, owners manuals, dealer technical bulletins, dealer albums, showroom brochures, magazines and much more.

The museum is open seven days a week, winter hours - November through March, 10am to 4pm. Donations are welcome. Directors Tim & Penny Dye invite you to stop in for a visit. The museum website is up and running, but not complete, www.pontiacoaklandmuseum.org.

Illinois is Growing Museums!

National Hellenic Museum Opens New Building



The four-story, 40,000-square-foot **National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted, Chicago**, opens to the public with a soft opening

on Nov. 8 and a grand opening on Dec. 8 in a space that is contemporary, but timeless. Below are details about the building, the green elements/LEED-certification process and the Museum's principal designer Demetrios Stavrianos. It features interactive permanent exhibits, high-profile traveling exhibits, a children's education center, research library, oral history center, rooftop terrace, museum gift store and special events hall. The Museum is constructed with natural limestone and glass, materials that respond to the artistic and technological traditions Greeks have experienced from the Classical Age to the modern day. Visit nationalhellenicmuseum.org.

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Rockford, Illinois, will introduce its new Interpretive Signage and Trail Guides in the spring of 2012. These materials will enable visitors to better understand the significance and value of our 155 acre collection of exotic and rare trees. This project is made possible through a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The **Polish Museum of America** (PMA), 984 N. Milwaukee (60642), Chicago, Tel 773-384-3352, Hours, F – W 11-4, visit: www.polishmuseumofamerica.org

The PMA proudly announces the opening of The Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery presenting a permanent exhibition of a world-class Interwar Period art, including the Art Deco paintings, sculptures, prints, and handicraft arts originally shown at the New York World's Fair Polish Pavilion in 1939-1940.



The **DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association, Inc.** (DAAHA) has a new space at 111 Second Street, Suite 204, DeKalb, IL 60115. DAAHA is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing the storied history of agriculture in northern Illinois. Beginning in January, we will have three exhibits on display. **Sprouts**, a exhibit for children exploring modern agriculture and the local economy; **DEKALB Ag: 100 Years of Agricultural**

Innovation (the history of the DEKALB Agricultural Association, Inc); and **Agricultural Innovations of Northern Illinois**, where visitors will learn about important agricultural inventions.

The **Children's Discovery Museum** in Normal Illinois opened the new Water Works exhibit in September. This new water play exhibit is the first phase of a renewable energy project that will include creative and hands-on exhibit experiences with solar, wind and hydro power.

The **Cedarville Area Historical Society** has purchased for one dollar the 112-year-old former village hall and jail from the current village board of trustees. The small limestone building served as the rent-free home of the Cedarville Museum from 1976 until eight years ago when the society paid the village one dollar for its current home, the abandoned, two-story brick 1889 village school. Records show that on August 7, 1890, John Oswalt of Cedarville, probably the general contractor, was paid \$148.96 for his work in "building council rooms and calabose".



The **DeMoulin Museum** in Greenville, Illinois has begun an interior renovation of their building. In October, the American Legion Post 282 donated the building to the museum board, which had been renting the building since opening in 2010. Upon completion in the spring of 2012, the DeMoulin Museum will have a brighter, more modern look. The museum is dedicated to the founders, employees, and unique products created by the DeMoulin Bros. factory. The company began in 1892 as a manufacturer of lodge initiation devices and regalia. The **Ethnic Heritage Museum** in



Rockford broke ground on a new addition on November 18, 2011. Their six current galleries

represent the ethnic groups that settled in southwest Rockford: African American, Hispanic, Irish, Italian, Lithuanian and Polish. This addition will help their galleries reach out with more education opportunities for the community neighbors as well as the school, scouting and tour groups that visit.

Regional News from Your IAM Members

IAM Region 1: Southern Illinois

Mary Lou Galloway of the Illinois State Museum's **Southern Illinois Art and Artisans Center** in Whittington and Sharon Bradham, director of the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon have joined the **Illinois Association of Museums** Board of Director as representatives of Region One.

IAM Region 2: East-Central Illinois

The Visitor Center Natural History Room at Kennekuk County Park in Danville, IL, thanks to a grant from the Herr Foundation, has cast tree trunks to cover existing posts in front of the woodland waterfall scene. The 2 trunks were cast from native black and white oaks at Forest Glen Preserve. For more information call 217-442-1691 or visit us at the **Vermilion County Conservation District** www.vccd.org.

Taylor Studios of Rantoul was awarded two NAI Media Awards organized by the National Association for Interpretation to "promote excellence in the delivery of natural, cultural, and historical non-personal interpretive services." Taylor Studios' *Wisdom of the Wild* exhibit for Killens Pond State Park in Felton, DE, won in the Interior Exhibit category and *Explore Your Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge* touch-screen interactive for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Basking Ridge, NJ, won in the Web/Multimedia category.

The **Mitchell Museum at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts** in Mt. Vernon, IL. A major painting from the Mitchell collection at Cedarhurst will be loaned to the National Gallery of Art in

Performing Arts Programs, Washington, D.C. for a three year period.

Mrs. T. in Wine Silk by one of America's leading

portraitists, George Bellows, will be part of an exhibition at the National Gallery November 12 through February 13, 2012. While Cedarhurst is proud to have a painting in this prestigious museum, for the first time Cedarhurst will borrow one in return! The National Gallery of Art will loan *The Chaperone* by Thomas Eakins to Cedarhurst from June 1 to October 31, 2012. Our permanent collection at Cedarhurst features three works by Eakins.

IAM Region 3: West-Central Illinois

New educational exhibits, fresh field trip topics and plain, old positive word-of-mouth helped **The Children's Museum at Edwardsville** serve a record number of visitors during the last year. More than 12,000 people came to the playful education destination, surpassing the old record by nearly 1,000.

The **Nauvoo Historical Society** has been finalizing their arrangement with the Baxter/Snyder families enabling NHS to be the primary Nauvoo source of Nauvoo Icarian history information. They now have an entire room in the Weld house set up to display the Icarian artifacts, many of them originating from Lillian Snyder's collection. They are indebted to Bob Baxter for his contribution of artifacts, funds, and many hours spent in cleaning, restoring, and locating the artifacts and in helping with the remodeling



and painting the room and entrance area to it.

A second major event was the setting up of the River Room to make a special location to display artifacts connected with the Mississippi River and its role in the history and life of the citizens in the Nauvoo area. Don Griffiths and Dean Gabbert were the driving force in getting together people and funds to gather artifacts and workers to get this room set up for proper display.

IAM Region 4: Northwest Illinois

The **Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society** has opened a new museum. The Lincoln-Manahan Home Museum is located at 607 E. 3rd St. in Sterling. One of the oldest homes in the area, the original part of the house was built in 1847. The home is furnished as it would have been in 1856 when Abraham Lincoln stayed there on July 18 after speaking at a Republican rally in Sterling. Lincoln was the guest of abolitionist Sheriff William Manahan.

Dedicated on July 18, 2011 the home had been open by appointment until regular open hours began in October, Saturday and Sunday 1-4 pm. The home will be open by appointment from November 1 to April 1, then regular open hours will resume.

The **Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden** launches a new program. The goal the Community Trees Program (CTP) is to share a vision of a sustainable community sheltered by a vibrant canopy of diverse, enduring trees to enhance the quality of life in the Rockford region.

Edith Makra, the Community Trees Advocate, joins the staff. Makra previously headed the Community Trees Program for The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL and launched former Mayor Richard M. Daley's enduring city tree program in Chicago

Regional News from Your IAM Members

She began her career at the top of the ladder - climbing trees as an arborist, but has spent the last two decades advocating for trees. Makra led the state's planning for the invasive ash tree-killing Emerald Ash Borer, which poses a severe threat to Rockford's community forest.

Four key civic partners are lending support to the Community Trees Program: the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, Rockford Park District, Winnebago County and the City of Rockford.

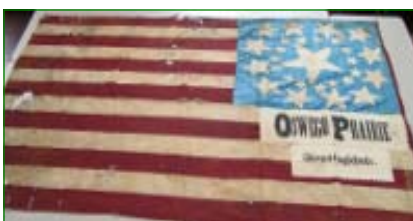
These agencies have each pledged collaboration and \$10,000 annually for three years to support the Community Trees Program. In addition, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is partnering to build an endowment fund for the Community Trees Program. Klehm and the partners have set a fund-raising goal of \$500,000 to allow the program to make a lasting impact on the quality of life in the Rockford region.

A major project completed this month by **Oswego's Little White School Museum** was the conservation and restoration of the historic Oswego Prairie Church Sonntagschule (Sunday School) Flag.

The 76" x 110" flag has seven broad red stripes and six white stripes, and features a blue field with 28 stars sewn in a "Great Star" pattern.

The rare flag is believed to have been flown from the lead wagon when farmers from the German settlement around the Oswego Prairie United Methodist Church attended a large countywide July 4, 1873 picnic in the Kendall County seat at Yorkville to protest the exploitation of farmers and laborers by railroad and other business monopolies.

This past summer, the flag was restored by experts at the Conservation Center in Chicago. Funds for the project came from the



final offering collected in June 2010 at the congregation's last service, heritage association funds from this year's annual commemorative crock fundraiser and the annual donation by the Quilters' Dozen Quilt Club from their *PrairieFest* Quilt Raffle, and from grants from former church members.

Discovery Center Museum, Rockford, has been awarded a grant of \$5,000 by the Community Needs Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, which they will use to buy a new van for outreach of their science programs.

IAM Region 5: Northeast Illinois

The **Robert R. McCormick Museum** was listed on the Wheaton Register of Historic Places in 2011. The RRMM has also completed extensive renovation work this year, including the complete rebuilding of a 1936 double curved stone staircase, removal, restoration, repainting and reinstallation of all decorative steel railings around the building, complete paint stripping and repainting and the restoration of four two-story tall fluted wooden columns this year.

The Jewish Museum of Vienna has requested the loan of a large oil on board painting from the collection of the **Theatre Historical Society**, Chicago for its upcoming exhibit "LARGER THAN LIFE: A Century of Hollywood." The painting was done by the Rambusch Decorating Company in 1925 as their proposed interior for the Roxy Theatre, New York City. THS has agreed to the

loan and the painting will be on display October 19, 2011 through April 15, 2012 at the Palais Eskeles, Vienna, Austria.

The **McHenry County Historical Society** is pleased to announce that it received a grant of \$2,500.00 from the Minno and Carol Halma Family Fund of the McHenry County Community Foundation. The money will be used to initiate a school transportation grant pilot program. Rising costs in bus transportation have resulted in decreased numbers of school tours at the Society's local history museum.

The **DuPage Children's Museum** and Tellabs Foundation announced a \$100,000 grant that will help launch a new exhibit based on the scientific principles of energy. The exhibit is targeted to open in the Museum in 2015.

This summer the Reserve Officers Association gave the **Pritzker Military Library** a collection of 1,226 books to be known as The Henry J. Reilly Memorial Library. Brig. Gen. Reilly was one of the original founders of the Association and its first National President in 1922-23.



The **Children's Museum in Oak Lawn** added three new exhibits focused on public safety. The exhibits are a police car, ambulance, and fire truck.

Thanks to Joy Kaminsky for assisting with Regional News.



Illinois Association of Museums
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
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Lake Villa Historical Society

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