

A Publication of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

Driftless Historium Debuts Permanent Exhibit

On Tuesday, May 30, nearly ninety MHAHS Members and donors attended a sneak peek of the long-awaited and much anticipated Driftless Historium permanent exhibit, *Life and Change at the Edge of the Driftless*.

This multi-faceted exhibit—over two years in the making—is the centerpiece of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society's new 3-building, 12,000 square foot facility. This colorful, dynamic space shares the many stories of the ecologically and geologically unique Driftless Area of Southwestern Dane County, from the last Ice Age to today, using original artifacts and documents, as well as video, photo slideshow and interactive kiosk elements.

Then, that weekend, on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3, we threw open the doors for a special no-admission public opening. In addition to free museum

entry, a partnership with the Little Eagle Arts Foundation (LEAF) of Wisconsin Dells added an additional cultural dimension via an outdoor Ho-Chunk drum, dance and song demonstration and displays of traditional crafts and arts by Wisconsin tribal members, many of whom offered their work for sale.

Nearly 450 people took advantage of the festivities, with many heartening compliments overheard..

With all galleries now open, including the special exhibit “Creators, Collectors and Communities,” the virtual reality kiosk and the permanent exhibit hall, as well as the occasional case exhibit and art display in the Kalschuer Family Foundation Community Education Room, the Driftless Historium is now considered fully open for business. Visitors who wish to tour the exhibits are now asked to pay a nominal admission fee as follows: \$4 per Adult, \$3 per Seniors (55+), \$2 for Children (up to 12), \$10 Family rate (covers two Adults and up to four Children), with Members and Active/Reserve/Retired Military and their families always eligible for free admission.

We are excited to enter this next phase in our growth, and we hope you'll visit us soon—and bring all your family, friends and neighbors with you! (Tip: Clear a few hours; there's a lot to see!)



Brian Bigler, Exhibit Designer, and MHAHS Curator Johnna Buysse, Project Manager, were the fearless leaders of the exhibit research, design, fabrication and installation project.



(Top) Melanie Tallmadge-Sainz, LEAF Director, stands with a Ho-Chunk bandolier bag on loan from LEAF. (Below) Destiny Funmaker (left) and Kelly Logan were part of the WI Dells Singers who shared their Ho-Chunk culture at the June 2 Native American Marketplace & Exhibit Opening event.



(Top) Catherine and John Schwenn honored John's rail-roading grandfather Henry Tinkham via a generous sponsorship of the RR exhibit. (Below) MHAHS Supporters Lois Dale and Sara Kittleson (forefront) take in the new exhibit at the May 30 "Sneak Peek" event.

Virtual Tour Kiosk Project Moves Forward

Soon, visitors to the Driftless Historium will be able to take a virtual stroll through three buildings (pictured at right), each carefully chosen for their resonance with local history and laudable structural integrity:

(1) The iconic Norway Building of the long-running Little Norway outdoor museum, that lie nestled in a Blue Mounds valley for over 80 years.

(2) Brunsveen Barn, located in the near-



A visitor takes "A Virtual Tour of Mount Horeb," a kiosk situated within a meticulous, if smaller-scale, recreation of the Norway Building porch entrance built by Master Carpenter Dana Duppler.

by Town of York, built in 1883 using the "hanging barn" technique and used for dairying continuously through the 1970s.

(3) Springdale Lutheran Church, a classically constructed house of worship erected in 1895 to serve the Norwegians of Springdale and Blue Mounds. The current steeple is a copy of the original designed by prolific carpenter Aslak Lie—which can now be seen on display in the Historium's permanent exhibit.

The Norway Building's impending journey home to Orkdal, Norway (where it was constructed in 1893 for the World's Fair) and the related intense press coverage spurred the start of this project in 2015. This fascinating story caught the attention of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery's Living Environments Laboratory (or LEL—now the Virtual Environments Group), located on the UW-Madison campus. Systems Programmer Ross Tredinnick reached out to MHAHS, who then facilitated permissions for the project between LEL and Little Norway owners Scott and Jennifer Winner. The Winners graciously agreed to allow the three-dimensional scanning of the building, and Scott later narrated a historical overview to accompany the virtual simulation.

A generous grant from the Raymond & Margaret Vicker



Charitable Trust, awarded in 2017, allowed MHAHS to contract with LEL for an additional two building scans (the barn and church) that LEL will soon add

(Continued on page 4)



SAVE THE DATE!

MHAHS & Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association Named 2018 Recipients of Thrivent's Community Generosity

On Friday, November 2, 2018, Thrivent Community-Glaciers Edge will host its third annual Mount Horeb Moonlight Gala, with 100% of proceeds to be equally divided between grateful nonprofits MHAHS and MHVMA. This year's elegant evening event will be held at the newly renovated 1912 Reilly Bros building, located just across the street from the Driftless Historium at 108 S 2nd St, Mount Horeb.

Your \$50 individual ticket includes two drink tickets and heavy appetizers. A \$600 reserved table for 8 and a \$700 table for 10 includes exclusive table service and specialty drink options. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception where guests will have a chance to mingle and bid on an array of unique silent auction items. The reception will be followed by an evening of food, drinks and dancing to the sounds of the Brian Whitty Group. **To purchase tickets, call 608-437-9070.**

SPOTLIGHT on COLLECTIONS

1920s Dance Marathons

Dance 'til You Drop.....Literally! By John Pare

Are you planning on attending this year's Moonlight Gala? Do you and your partner dance—maybe you'll boogie the night away? How about dancing an entire week? A month? How about 2,760 hours? That's 115 days. From April 4, 1930 to August 7, 1930 the two people pictured here, Joe Rocks and Margie Meadows, did just that. They danced in the Merry Garden Championship Dance Marathon in Chicago for 2,760 hours. Amazing, you say. Well, they didn't even win! The winners danced for 2,831 hours or nearly 118 days.

We have this photograph in our collection but we are not sure if Joe and Margie were from the Mount Horeb area or perhaps they were related to someone who lived here. Another possibility is that this was a publicity photo signed and sent to someone who might have been a fan of this couple. Sending such photos was a common practice among ball players and Hollywood stars. Can you help identify them? In any case, their dancing achievement is nothing short of incredible.

Marathon dance contests were all the rage in the 1920s. Their popularity spanned the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression. These events helped to take people's mind off the more serious and depressing news of the day, and they became entertainment events that attracted participants and onlookers alike. Participants competed for prize money and were fed while they danced. For onlookers, the dance halls provided a warm, dry place in the winter. In other words, some of their basic needs were met at a time when poverty was everywhere.

When these contests started, the rule was that the two dancers had to be in continuous motion, however slowly they chose to move. Dances under these rules usually lasted several days with partners taking naps while the other partner held them up and dragged them around the floor. Dancers were allowed to leave the floor for "hygienic or medicinal reasons" or to change clothes. Even with these breaks some dancers fainted and one even died on the dance floor. Later the rules were relaxed and allowed dancers to stop dancing and to sleep for a couple of hours every day and to take short breaks to eat.

The Merry Green Ballroom was located at 3136 North Sheffield Ave., just south of Belmont on Chicago's northside. It was owned and operated by Jack and Helen Lund. Some groups like movie theater owners and churches opposed this form of entertainment for obvious reasons. The world record was set at the Merry Green from August 29, 1930 to April 1, 1931 when Mike Ritof and Edith Bourdreux danced for 5154 hours or 215 days.

So next time you go dancing and your feet hurt after a few dances, stop your whining and think of these folks who danced for weeks and even months!



"A Tribute to Those Who Served"

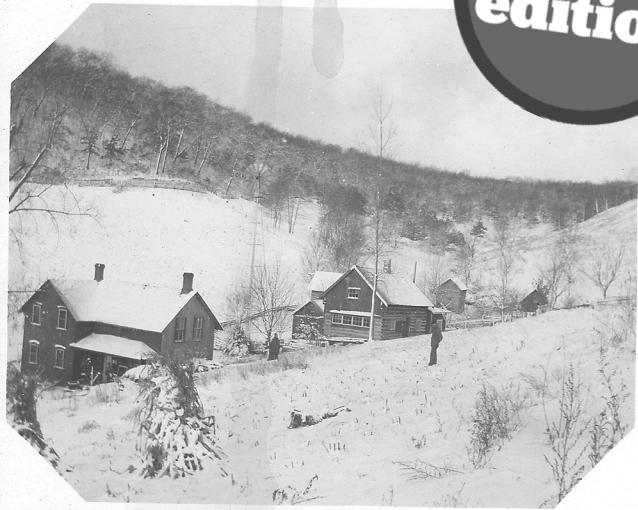
MHVMA was founded December 2017, through the collaborative efforts of members of Veterans of Foreign Wars (Post 9511, American Legion Post 113 and Chapter IV of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans organizations. The Association envisions a memorial for Mount Horeb in the honor of all U.S. Armed Forces Veterans. Visit mhvma.org to learn more.



Rendering of proposed memorial.

HISTORY MYSTERY

special
edition



The “History Mystery” is a recurring feature in the *Mount Horeb Mail*, in which Volunteer Photograph Curator Nancy Thousand selects and publishes somehow-anonymous photographs (no recorded names, dates and/or locations) from the MHAHS collection and asks readers to help identify them. And we have even greater confidence in you, dear Members, who so often safeguard a trove of local memory! This particular photo duo features the same farmstead during two different seasons of the year. They were both taken by Albert Thorhaug, a prolific photographer whose usual focus—though not always—was rural Daleyville. **Can you help us solve this Special Edition History Mystery?** Call 608-437-6486 or email Nancy at mthorebmysteryphoto@gmail.com.

(Cont. from page 2)

to the existing 3D visitor kiosk located in the Historium’s lower level.

Once LEL incorporates the Rare Earth barn and Springdale Lutheran Church data, Historium visitors will be able to navigate through one or all three built environments, with historical context provided by optional narrations.

(Of note: Rare Earth Farm owner Charles Bauer, who, with his partner Charles Beckwith, has watched over this beautiful property for 40+ years, voices the barn history, while Sue Bakken, Council President, provides the Springdale Lutheran Church historical narrative.

This project has garnered much attention for MHAHS.

LEL and MHAHS staff collaborated on an article published in the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s

Forum Journal Spring 2018 edition (Vol. 32, No. 1; cover pictured at right), which featured the theme “Technology Transforming Preservation”—a publication distributed nationally to all NTHP members.

In addition, MHAHS Director Destinee Udelhoven will serve as a session presenter at the Wisconsin Historical Society’s 2018 *Local History & Historic Preservation Conference* in Elkhart Lake, WI on Saturday, October 22, where she will be sharing her experiences on this virtual journey along with LEL’s Ross Treddinnick.

The “Virtual Tour of Mount Horeb” exhibit kiosk is accessible to all admission-paying visitors and MHAHS members during the Driftless Historium’s public hours (Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., with regular Tuesday hours beginning September 4.)

ForumJournal
VOL. 32, NO. 1

Technology Transforming
Preservation



National Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation
Leadership Forum

The article “Virtual Reality as an Agent of Preservation,” pages 22-29, was co-authored by LEL and MHAHS staff and describes the partnership that resulted in the Historium’s 3D kiosk.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Meet Aimee Arrigoni!

Write your own “job description” of what you do here at the Society.

So far, I’ve focused on organizing our large collection of archival documents now that we’ve moved into our new space. This means making sure documents are stored correctly, preparing photo collections for fellow volunteers to catalog, and beginning to sort some of our large collections so they are accessible to researchers.

How long have you volunteered for the Society?

Since January 2018.

What is your favorite part of volunteering?

I love getting to know my fellow volunteers, and I love coming across treasures in the archives—old hand-written letters, photos, and ledgers from early settlers.

Who or what got you interested?

I was so glad to see the Society was here when we moved to town. Volunteering gives me a chance to keep doing archival work even though I no longer work in the field of cultural resources.

Tell us about your family.

I live with my husband, Ben, and my 9-year-old daughter, Avena. We moved to Mount Horeb from the San Francisco Bay Area almost two years ago. My parents, sister, brother and their families all live nearby.

Tell us about your education and vocational background.

I have both a B.A. and M.A. in History. Before moving to Mount Horeb, I worked for 13 years as an archaeologist in northern California, where I spent a lot of time writing historical contexts for cultural resources projects. I am now trying a new adventure —growing garlic and two acres of wine grapes.

Why is the Mount Horeb area the best place on earth?

The people, of course! This community is full of creative, interesting people and I’m so glad to be here!



MHAHS Volunteer, former archaeologist and current grape/garlic farmer Aimee Arrigoni, organizes the Cy Burns Photo Collection. Aimee ably jumped right into the task of settling MHAHS’s expansive artifact and archive collections into the new humidity and temperature-controlled Historium storage spaces. Aimee has quickly become an indispensable and unfailingly upbeat member of The Team!

Collectors & Collections: What’s Your Passion?



On April 28, MHAHS tried out a new event, “Collectors & Collections,” in which community members were encouraged to show off their accumulated treasures. From Larry Kruckman’s international tops to Nancy Nye Hunt’s “Gasoline Alley” memorabilia, the variety was amazing! Here, we see (L to R) Shirley Martin and her butter pat plates, Marlyn Grinde and a sampling of her Chinese workbasket collection and Nancy Thousand with her lifelike German dolls.

2017 Gifts



Memorials

Wayne Acker, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Ann Albert, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Reynold Anderson, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Michael Armbrust, in memory
 of Donald Losenegger
 Elmer & Norma Baker,
 in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Eunice Bakken, in memory
 of Betty Zentner
 David & Ann Baumgartner, in memory
 of Mary Waltz
 David & Ann Baumgartner, in memory
 of Martina Scott
 Ron & Mary Jo Brinkman, in memory
 of Mary Lou Underwood
 Roger Buesser, in memory Mary Waltz

Jane Burns, in memory of Judy Schulz
 E LeRoy Collins, in memory of Mary Waltz
 E LeRoy Collins, in memory of Gladys Collins
 E LeRoy Collins, in memory of Jean Mueller
 E LeRoy Collins, in memory of Seraphine Schlingen
 E LeRoy Collins, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 E LeRoy Collins, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Mary Ann Connors, in memory of James P. Connors
 Ronald Cottone, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Michael Czerwonka, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Lois H. Dale, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Lavera Dickinson, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Beverly Eckel, in memory of Francis Collins
 Beverly Eckel, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Beverly Eckel, in memory of Dana Gaffney
 Kevin Fosso, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Daniel Ganch, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Linda Gerke, in memory of Barb Edwards
 Anita Gurda, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Eileen Hanneman, in memory of Maxine Dimick
 Wayne Hefty, in memory of Glenn Spaay
 Sandra Hook, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Lyle Huseth, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Fred Johnson, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Ronald Johnson, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Dolores Kahl, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 John Klarer, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Gregory Knoke, in memory of Mary Waltz
 William, Kuenzie, Jr., in memory of Chalis Sherven
 Owen & Delma Larson, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Peggy Longseth McCauley, in memory of Donald Losenegger

Shirley Martin, in memory of Hal Schwenn
 Shirley Martin, in memory of Kay Dangerfield
 Shirley Martin, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Russell & Vergeane Martin, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Russell & Vergeane Martin, in memory of Dana Gaffney
 Mark & Becky Mostrom, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Doug & Janet Nesheim, in memory of Dolores Hanson
 Doug & Janet Nesheim, in memory of Martina Scott
 Edgar Norris, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Tony & Darlene Nowak, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Marguerite O'Connell, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Harlan Oimoen, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Sue Owen, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Michael Patenuade, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Wanda Phillips, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Charles D. Phillipson, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Peter & Carol Riphahn, in memory of Dana Gaffney
 Peter & Carol Riphahn, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Peter & Carol Riphahn, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Peter & Carol Riphahn, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Max & Betty Rosenbaum, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Sandra Roth, in memory of Willis Martinson
 Sandra Roth, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Sandra Roth, in memory of Martina Scott
 Donald & Carol Schwarz, in memory of Roger Field
 Donald & Carol Schwarz, in memory of Myrtle Showers
 Jo Ann Six, in memory of Dana Gaffney
 Arlen & Elaine Spaanem, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Mary Spaay, in memory of Glenn Spaay
 Tim Stadelman, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Irvin & Judith Steinhauer, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Marjorie Sutter, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Lois Tvedt, in memory of Roger Field
 Susan Uehling, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Susan Uehling, in memory of Desiree Russell
 Donald Weigt, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Mary Waltz
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Willis H. Martinson
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Deborah London Hoffman
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Glenn Spaay
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Phillip D. Halverson
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Kay Dangerfield
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Betty Zentner
 Ron Wirth, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Ron Wirth, in memory of James P. Connors
 Edward Wirth, in memory of Donald Losenegger
 Joyce Wittenwyler, in memory of Mary Lou Underwood
 Premier Co-Op, in memory of Donald Losenegger

Our Supporters deserve to be recognized—and recognized accurately!

Please inform us promptly of any omissions or corrections.

Call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebhistory@mhtc.net.

CORRECTIONS: The February 2018 newsletter listing of “2017 Dues-Paying Members” was incomplete. We apologize to the following (and any one else inadvertently not included) for this oversight: Brad & Karen Grundahl (Contributing), Gertie Henderson (Individual), Guy & Martha Martin (Individual), Lucille Mc Kee (Sustaining), Karla Ott (Contributing), John Pare (Sustaining), Lucy Ramshaw (Individual), Connie Jo Zwettler (Individual). In addition, the October 2017 newsletter listing of “Driftless Historium Project Donors 2007-2016” incorrectly identified Diane Alme’s Great-Grandfather Tollef Brattlie as “Tony Brattlie.” Diane honored Tollef with an Associate level gift in his name.

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

General Donations & Grants

Jeanne Bakken
Ann Baumgartner
Fred Brown
Ray & Sherry Einerson
Gerald Fredrickson
Steve & Aimee Gauger
Anita Gurda
Steve Haroldson
Donald Hartman
Gertrude Henderson
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William Kalscheur
Dennis Lokken
Richard & Matthew Lust
Shoshannah Marohn
Matthew Marty
Lucille Mc Kee

Ross Nesheim
Jeffrey Post
Donna Read
Christopher Rich
John E. & Catherine Schwenn -"33 Ways to Help"
Joan & Charles Sholdt -"33 Ways to Help"
Jo Ann Six
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Audrey Zander
Kathie Zwettler
Kalscheur Family Foundation
Mount Horeb Community Foundation
Mount Horeb Rotary
Mount Horeb Utilities
Raymond & Margaret Vicker Charitable Trust,
K. Alexander Hobson, Trustee
West Blue Mounds
Women of the WELCA



Patti Rooney Fannon, descendent of influential Blue Mounds settler and entrepreneur Ebenezer Brigham (whose 19th-c. farmstead site would eventually yield the Cave of the Mounds), poses with a broad ax stamped with "E. Brigham" that was graciously donated by Darryl Libby in February 2017. Libby uncovered the ax during a barn demolition near Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Based on internet research, Libby discovered Ebenezer's many local ties and quickly reached out to MHAHS in the hopes of finding the artifact a deserving home. In-depth research on this fascinating piece of history has yet to be completed. We do know that Ebenezer Brigham did, indeed, hail from Massachusetts; but preliminary dating places the tool's manufacture between 1880 and 1900—too late to mesh with Ebenezer's pre-1818 departure from MA. In any event, Darryl's dedicated appreciation for history and the ax's cross-country journey to the Historium makes for an awesome story. The ax can be seen on display now in the newly opened permanent exhibit, "Life & Change at the Edge of the Driftless."

Honorariums

Hands All Around Quilters,
In honor of Marietta Gribb

Michael Marks,
in honor of Brown Family of Riley

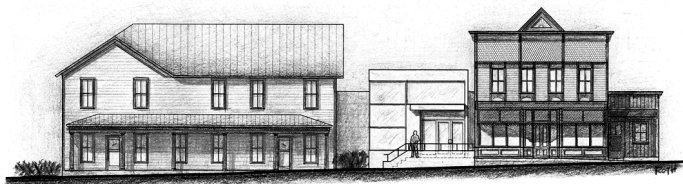
Donors of Artifacts & Archive Materials

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Alfred & Anna Aslakson Family
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Trillium Natural Foods
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Merel Black
William Crawford
Geraldine Despina
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Vivian Stone
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Nancy Thousand
Bob Tolland
Mary Lou Underwood Estate
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Teri Vierima
Tim & Karen White
Scott Winner Family, Little Norway

DRIFTLESS Historium

Mount Horeb Area
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Mount Horeb, WI 53572
www.mthorebhistory.org
(608) 437-6486



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Driftless Historium
History Center
100 South Second Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
(608) 437-6486

UPCOMING EVENTS

All take place at Driftless Historium and are FREE, unless otherwise noted. See Facebook or website for more information, or call (608) 437-6486.

AUGUST

30 & Oct 4 (3:00-6:00p.m.)
Historium Booth & Kids' Craft
@ Mt Horeb Farmers Market

SEPTEMBER

6 (6:30p.m.)
WWI Speaker Series #5 of 6
Letters from the Boys
@ MHPL

15 (8:30a.m.-4:00p.m.)
Historium Hosts
WSGS Leaders Conference
Registration & Fee Required

18 (9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.)
Historium Hosts
WHS Capital Region Meeting
Registration & Fee Required

24 (1:00p.m.)
Ancestry.com
at Your Library! @ MHPL

30 (11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.)
100th Birthday Party
& Open House
@ PC/"Old High School"

OCTOBER

6 - 7 Mt Horeb Fall Heritage Festival
Site Activities TBA

21 (1:00p.m.)
MHAHS Annual Meeting
Fea. Driftless Reader Program

NOVEMBER

2 (7:00p.m.-11:00p.m.)
Thrivent's 3rd Annual
Mount Horeb Moonlight Gala
Registration & Fee Required



MHAHS hosted a Native American Flute-making Workshop on March 10 and 11 at the charming District #1 Old Schoolhouse, under the guidance of Ho-Chunk William Quackenbush (who serves as the Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer when he's not teaching meaningful and enlightening woodworking classes). Thirteen took advantage of this unique cultural experience, and all took home a working courting-style flute at the end of the weekend.