



Shiloh Museum of Ozark History *2008 Annual Report*

National Accomplishments

The museum received the American Association of Museums' MUSE award for our video podcast, finishing third behind the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian.

Podcast producer Heather Marie Wells received the inaugural "Emerging Museum Professional" award from the Southeastern Museums Conference, recognizing young professionals who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in museums.



Director Allyn Lord served on the governing board of the American Association of Museums. In February Lord presented the keynote address to the Mississippi Museums Association.

Photo archivist Marie Demeroukas worked on a museum nomenclature book to be published in 2009 for the American Association for State and Local History.

The museum worked with Heritage Trail Partners and the Arkansas Trail of Tears Association to get the Fitzgerald Farmstead in Springdale certified as a location on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

State and Local Accomplishments

The Arkansas Museums Association presented the museum with three awards:

- Staff Member of the Year: Susan Young
- Publication of the Year: *Color the Ozarks*
- Exhibit of the Year (honorable mention): *Tech-Knowledge-Geel!*

The museum received a \$5,924 grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to re-roof the General Store with wood shakes.

The Bella Vista chapter of the Questers awarded the museum a \$1,475 grant for exterior repairs on the roof of Dr. Carter's Office.

Readers of *CitiScapes* magazine chose the museum as 2008's "Best Museum in Northwest Arkansas."

General Accomplishments

In 2008 the museum served 33,242 people, the largest number since at least 1999, despite the museum being closed to the public for one-third of the year.

In 2008 volunteers worked 3,349 hours at the museum, 16% more than in 2007 despite our 4-month closure. The dollar value of those hours? \$65,339, greater than any individual museum staff member's salary!

Membership was down slightly in 2008, but members stepped up their donations, with 60% paying more than they did in 2007.

398 researchers requested services from our research library and/or photo archives in 2008.

Education Accomplishments

The museum became a professional development Authorized Provider by the Arkansas Department of Education for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 school years. In 2008, 21 teacher in-service trainings were provided for 622 teachers.

Northwest Arkansas Community College instructor Jami Forrester had her "History of Arkansas" summer school students, most of whom were teachers in local schools or studying to become teachers, evaluate and write lesson plans for the museum's discovery boxes.



The Northwest Arkansas Regional History Day competition in March involved 238 students (154 teams) from Washington and Benton counties.

Eleven "Shiloh Sandwiched-In" presentations were given, including such topics as the telegraph, the evolution of the Northwest Arkansas Naturals, chinquapin trees, the effect of the Hispanic population on the Catholic church in Northwest Arkansas, and early Madison County.

The museum joined the ranks of many universities and colleges, but just a few museums, on iTunes U. From this free site you can access our podcasts, teacher resource materials, lesson plans, and many other educational items.

Exhibit Accomplishments

Three major exhibits opened in 2008:

- *Play Ball*, on the history of baseball in Northwest Arkansas, to celebrate the inaugural season of the Northwest Arkansas Naturals in Springdale.
- *Ozark Voices: Personal Stories from Northwest Arkansas*, an audio exhibit featuring interviews with area residents recorded by StoryCorps®.
- *First Things First*, featuring some of the first artifacts donated to the museum, celebrating our 40th anniversary.

Two photo exhibits were produced in 2008:

- *Following the Crop* on Springdale's migrant labor camp, 1940s-60s.
- *Good Eats*, featuring images of Ozark foodways.

Collections Accomplishments

Six volunteers from a quilt study group researched and upgraded the storage for 102 quilts in the museum's collections, donating 125 hours and \$2,500 in services.



As a side effect of the roof project, the 1939 "Local Industries" WPA mural by Natalie Henry was taken off exhibit and stabilized, as seen on the cover of this report.

Photo information from more than 10,000 catalog cards was added to the database.

More than 80 donations of collections were made to the museum, numbering more than 225 artifacts.

Financial Accomplishments

The museum's two endowment funds were combined into one at the Northwest Arkansas Community Foundation, resulting in \$27,500 being awarded us by NWACF for the move.

\$67,629 in state and local grants were received.

Thousands of dollars worth of materials and services were donated in response to our newsletter wish lists, including a chainsaw, which was much appreciated following the January 2009 ice storm.

Board and Staff Accomplishments

A land acquisition policy was drafted.

Savings account and reserve funds were used to house staff in temporary offices during renovations, restore the WPA mural, buy a photocopier, add gutter caps to the roof, and wallpaper the meeting room.

Heather Marie Wells received scholarships to attend national, regional, and state professional meetings.

Three new staff members were added in 2008: Jacqueline Burnett, library assistant; Marty Powers, maintenance; and Jenny Vego, weekend assistant.

Facilities Improvements

The roof and condensation project was started and completed in 2008 at a cost of over \$280,000: \$250,548 from Springdale CIP funds and over \$28,000 from Shiloh Museum Board funds. The museum



was closed for 19 weeks during construction, while offices were temporarily moved to the basement and into a next-door duplex. Upon reopening on Dec. 8, the museum had three new metal roofs; blown insulation beneath roofs and in eaves; above-ceiling heat and air movement; gutter caps; and a major mold problem remediated.

The 1871 Shiloh Meeting Hall exterior and roof were completely restored. Just over \$190,000 was spent on the project, thanks to grants from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Community Development Block Grants, and Shiloh Museum Board funds. Archeological investigations were undertaken on the grounds. The renovation of the interior now awaits funding.



Our Partners in 2008

Accident School alumni
Arkansas Archeological Survey
Arkansas Boston Mountain Chapter,
National Railway Historical Society
Arkansas Community Foundation
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Arkansas Historical Association
Arkansas History Day
Arkansas Humanities Council
Arkansas Museums Association
Boger's Petting Zoo
Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
Clements & Associates, Architects
Crystal Bridges Museum of
American Art
Dogwood Lace Guild
Experience Works
Fishback School alumni
Har-Ber High School EAST Lab
Heritage Trail Partners
Homestyle Assisted Living
Jones Center for Families

KIDCARE
KUAF radio
Life Writers
Marion Chapter, Daughters of the
American Revolution
Mobley Architects
The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas
Newton County Library
NWA Civil War Roundtable
NWA Community College
NWACC College at the Crossings
NWA Education Renewal Zone
NWA Handweavers Guild
NWA Museums Consortium
NWA Quilt Study Group
NWA Radio Relay League
NWA Sacred Harp Singers
Northwest Arkansas Times
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute,
UA Division of Continuing Education
Ozark Wireless Society
Pea Ridge National Military Park

Pettigrew community
Q.U.I.L.T.
RBAA Films
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Springdale Chamber of Commerce
Springdale City Planning Department
Springdale Kiwanis
Springdale Public Library
Springdale Public Schools
StoryCorps©
Tellers of Tales
TheatreSquared
Tontitown Historical Museum
Trail of Tears Questers
Washington County Arkansas
Genealogical Society
Washington County Historical Society

Cover photo: The 1939 WPA mural "Local Industries" is removed from the exhibit hall by professional conservators and museum staff in the fall of 2008. Photo by Don House

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Pody Gay, education coordinator
Don House, photographer
Allyn Lord, director
Alma Lyle, education assistant
Curtis Morris, exhibit designer
Marty Powers, maintenance
Carolyn Reno, collections manager and assistant director
Jenny Vego, weekend assistant
Heather Marie Wells, collections assistant and podcast producer
Susan Young, outreach coordinator

Volunteers

Ethna Billings, David and Vonita Carpenter, Karen Cordell, Beverly Cosby, Leslie Coston, Susan Dewey, Tom Duggan, Martha Estes, Regina Gabel, Jonathan Garrison, Danielle Hansen, Bill Jones, Mary John Jones, Mitsy Kellam, Mada Knight, Jim and Marie Langford, Mira Leister, Marilyn Meek, Oda Mulloy, Barbara Parks, Pam Redfern, Debbie Reed, Don Reynolds, Barbara Roberts, Larry Shivel, Jeanne Tackett, Ray Toler, Bruce and Mary Vaughan, Edward Vogt, Ryan Wells, Kendall Wood

MISSION STATEMENT

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks.

[Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees, July 13, 2006]