



ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM

Of Natural History & Anthropology

COLLECTIONS

Learning Through Adventure



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Elgin Public Museum is to enhance understanding of the Natural Sciences and Anthropology through exhibits and interactive experiences.

EPM Hours

Memorial Day to Labor Day

Tuesday through Sunday 12 - 4 pm
Closed Mondays

Memorial Day to Labor Day

Saturday & Sunday 12 - 4 pm

For additional information or to register in advance for an event or program please call : 847-741-6655

Visit our website for more information at www.elginpublicmuseum.org

The Summer Exhibit Illinois Rocks!

A Guided Tour Through Geologic Time



"However much we shape the earth, it shapes us more. ...we remain the products of this planet and its processes. Our culture and our individual lives are molded by the forces and features of an ancient origin..."

Raymond Wiggers, *Geology Underfoot in Illinois*

This exhibit tells the story of the geological history of Illinois as revealed through rocks and landforms we see today.

TERRA FIRMA

Our Home Sweet Home

by Mike McGrath

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines Geology as a science that deals with the history of the earth and its life, especially as recorded in rocks. Boy oh boy, that definition takes in a lot of territory. Here at the Elgin Public Museum our Geology collection is divided into 3 categories:

- 1. Petrology**, the study of rocks, their origin, composition, structure, and properties, primarily igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary.
- 2. Mineralogy**, the study of minerals, their origin, composition, structure, and properties which are homogeneous substances with a definite physical and chemical nature.
- 3. Paleontology**, the scientific study of life of the geologic past, involving analysis of plant and animal fossils preserved in rocks.

For most of my life I thought; could there be anything more boring than the study of Geology? A rock placed in front of me on the day I was born would not move or change, without some external intervention of course, until the day I died, even if I lived to be thousands of years old.

The geologic time scale is quite different than the time scale as we perceive to live our daily lives. In geologic time, our entire human life is shorter than the flash of the firefly on a summer's evening night. There's not much change in the physical features of the earth in that single illumination.

To appreciate Earth's geology you must take the time and understand what is happening underfoot. When a geologist talks about a dynamic earth, they're talking about the energy and forces that produce motion. There is a lot of movement and the energy from heat is the driving force. We can perceive that heat and the forces in a volcanic eruption. Everyday we experience the affects of heat and motion in our daily weather. Wind, rain, tornadoes, hurricanes and droughts are the result of the effects of sun's heat energy on the different physical features and conditions of the planet. The same is true for the ground we stand on. Earthquakes and volcanoes, mountains and river valleys, diamonds, granite and gold are all the result of the heat and motion of the molten magna boiling in the furnace underfoot.

An inquisitive mind will find geology a spellbinding scientific discipline. Geology answers questions such as: Why aren't there any volcanoes in Illinois? Why are there earthquakes on the west coast but not on the east coast? Why are there so many different kinds of rocks and minerals? Why are there no

From the Director - Margaret "Peggie" Stromberg

Each week Sara, Mike and I look at each other and say, "This is going to be a really busy week." We've been doing that for several years and it is always true. Some years back there were 6 full-time employees here at the Museum and now there are three part-time, so we stay busy. It is good to be busy, though, and we take pride in the programs we are able to provide.

The weather hasn't been cooperating as well as it could! It rained on our 3 Sisters planting, but we still welcomed 50 people to the planting and the ceremonies by our Native American friends Marcelyn Kropp, Christine Perry and Fran Hagemann. Next year we plan to add a Native American medicinal garden.

We have bid good by to the beautiful "Landscapes of Mexico" photo exhibit and we are preparing a reprise of our geological exhibit. We will be bringing out some of our more spectacular specimens of rocks and minerals for this exhibit, including our enormous chunks of turquoise, coal and quartz. Working with the folks at the Mexican Consulate was a great experience and we hope to do more with them in the future.

We are looking forward to the member, donor and volunteer picnic coming up June 29. Each year we get more attendees and we get a chance to know our members. We have changed our by-laws so that the picnic is now also our annual meeting. Please call the Museum and let us know if you are coming as we provide all of the food.

You will see an event calendar of coming programs and we hope to see you at many of them. For the first time ever, we are doing a fund raiser program and asked the Elgin Area Historical Society Museum to join us. We are presenting Brian "Fox" Ellis, an extraordinary storyteller, on July 14. He will be doing a program about the "Ghosts of the Civil War." It is guaranteed to be a great event. We also teamed up with the Elgin League of Women Voters and the Elgin YWCA to hold a non-profit carnival in May. Once again the weather was uncooperative with a lot of rain, closing down the carnival at some points. However, it was a successful partnership and we look forward to doing it again. Sigi Psimenos from the LWV and Loni Mecum of the YWCA were great to work with. Our Sara could be found in the ticket booth most of the time!

Keep up with our news on Facebook. We are edging close to 500 fans. Please "like" our page and see all of events as they are coming up as well as what is going on in Lord Park. We are also on Twitter as Museum 1907.

EPM STAFF

Margaret "Peggie" Stromberg
Executive Director

Michael McGrath
Museum Coordinator

Sara Russell
Education Coordinator

Marge Fox
Educator

Amanda Wolf & Rachel Camacho
Museum Attendants

Elizabeth O'Toole
Collections Supervisor

EPM BOARD MEMBERS

Martha Yochum

Gilbert Nore

Dwight Armistead

Mark Havemann

Clare Ollayos

Diane Ramsay Shedd

Don Quillman

MUSEUM GOLD

A special THANKS to all those who support our mission. We couldn't do it without you!

New and Renewed Membership

Jeanette Weinert (NEW)
Jon & Sharon Ridler (NEW)
Gil & Mary Nore (since 1986)
Michael Curtin (NEW)
Paul Andresen (since 2003)
E. C. Greenwald (since 2010)
Dorothea Poulos (since 2001)
David & Irene Wedemeyer (since 1987)
Joan Berna (since 2002)
Amy Penar (NEW)
Brendan Morse (NEW)
The Hill Family (NEW)

Donors

Paul Andresen
David Rich
David & Irene Wedemeyer

The Elgin Public Museum is a public institution whose purpose is to enrich the lives of the people within our community. Your membership and donations are vital ingredients in the success of our mission. Because of your support and generosity we are able to present programming either free or at reasonable rates for all, in the hopes all our citizens can greater understand and appreciate the complexity of the world around them.

THANK YOU!

Museum Fast Facts

- The original museum opened in 1898 at the Lords Park Pavilion
- Blueprints for new building done by David Postle
- Construction on present Museum started in 1904
- Building finished in 1907
- Opened as Audubon Museum in 1920
- Incorporated in present form in 1983
- Building addition opened 2000

Goodbye to a Beautiful Exhibit

Landscapes of Mexico

by EPM Staff

Because of the Museum's reputation for programming, we got a call from the Mexican Consul in Chicago last winter asking us if we would like to display some stunning photographs of Mexico. This was a no brainer considering the cultural diversity of our community. I hope you had time to stop by and see it. As Alfonso Huerta describes his exhibit: "Landscapes of Mexico are magical seas, stunning deserts, majestic mountains and impenetrable jungles that make Mexico one of the planets most outstanding regions of biodiversity and beauty." After viewing these photographs, if you're like myself, you would seriously consider an extended vacation to Mexico. We kicked everything off with a gala opening reception attended by many local dignitaries. A special thanks has to go to LULAC Council #5236 for all the work they did in making this event a success.



Mexican Consulate Manuel Rodriquez-Arriaga, U-46 Superintendent Dr. Jose Torres, and EPM Executive Director Peggie Stromberg



Guests indulged in a taste of Mexico and the festive entertainment of Ballet Folklorico Huehuecoyoth

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

Civil War Ghosts and Legends

by EPM Staff

On Thursday, July 14th, we are conducting a joint fundraiser with the Elgin Area Historical Society. The presenter will be none other than Brian Ellis. Over the past several years Brian, also affectionately known as "Fox," has graced our Museum disguised as John James Audubon, Charles Darwin and a friend of Abraham Lincoln. We can't think of any individual who has attended one of these programs leaving without a comment on how entertaining and educational the evening had been. To whet your appetite for this event let me share Brian's synopsis of this upcoming program. *True stories and legends woven with traditional songs from the most un-civil war. I'll takes listeners back in time to the bloody battlefields, gruesome field hospitals and haunted graveyards of America's deadliest war. In the persona of Mathias Stritt, a German immigrant who was one of the first to enlist in Peoria, Illinois, and later marched with Sherman as he burned Atlanta and marched to the sea, Fox intersperses a rich knowledge of the war with horror stories.*



Brian "Fox" Ellis transforms himself into historic figures to give audiences first hand accounts of history.

Because of the anticipated popularity of this event it will be held at the Lords Park Pavilion. The program is appropriate for children 10 and older. Advanced reservations are required to guarantee a seat.

It's Right Around the Corner **The 5th Annual Member, Donor and Volunteer Picnic**



Have you circled Wednesday, June 29th, on your calendar? You won't want to miss our annual Picnic. It's just a small way we want to

show our appreciation for your support. The festivities will be starting at 6 pm. We'll supply everything, including the treats. Besides the traditional hotdog roast on an open fire at the museum, *not in the museum*, we will also be conducting our EPM annual meeting. This will allow you as members to hear what's going on and vote on actions taken.

Something Unique - A Beaded Jewelry Workshop

Jewelry has many social, economic, political and religious implications for cultures all around the world. In Native American cultures jewelry was often exhibited with beads and pendants which are used in many ceremonies for healing and curing. Jewelry creates a personal connection with the spiritual that ground and assist the wearer.

Marcelyn Kropp will be conducting 2 workshops on July 9th. She is an Osage and Kaw Tribal member from Oklahoma who has lived in Elgin for the past 5 years. "I've been doing bead-work pretty much most of my life," says Marcelyn. "Wherever I've lived, I've learned different beading techniques and styles, with their cultural meanings and symbolic significance."

Marcelyn combines traditional American Indian themes and techniques in a more contemporary style. The picture above is the necklace we will create at the workshop. In the store we are also displaying several other pieces of jewelry art created by Marcelyn. The fee for this 2 hour workshop is \$15 plus the cost of a bead kit. Give us a call for more information or visit our website.



WHO DOES THE ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM PARTNER AND WORK WITH FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

Well it's just about everyone. The walls of the Museum are not solid. We are continually reaching out to all other local and national organizations who care about the health and welfare of our community. Can you connect with any of these organizations?

French Consulate, Mexican Consulate, Boys and Girls Club, Friends of the Viking Ship, Elgin Community Network, Community Garden Network, Elgin Historical Society, City of Elgin, Elgin Parks and Recreation, Midwest SOARRING, Friends of Lords Park Zoo, Elgin Climate Organization, Downtown Neighborhood Association, LULAC, Elgin Community College, Judson University, Centro de Informacim, Association of Midwest Museums, American Association of Museums, Illinois Association of Museums, Small Museum Administrators Committee, Elgin YWCA, School District U-46, School District U-300, Kiwanis Club, Illinois State Museum, Elgin Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce, AAUW, League of Women Voters, Elgin Harvest Market, Gail Borden Library, Elgin Rock Club. And the list continues to grow.



Our own Sara Russell interacting with shoppers at the Elgin Harvest Market.

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fossils in igneous rocks? Why are there sea shells in the rocks of the highest peaks in the South American Andes? Why is Illinois so flat, compared to Colorado? Geology answers these questions.

And did you ever wonder how scientists know that 300 million years ago, during the Pennsylvanian Period, Elgin was a great coal swamp sitting on the equator. Or, 500 million years ago Elgin was at the bottom of a tropical ocean. Or 12,000 years ago Elgin was located under a giant glacier. Geology answers these questions.

For the next few months our **Illinois Rocks!** exhibit will help explain these and other facts that will pique your interest in this science. It is supplemented with rocks, minerals and fossils from our collection. Be sure to set some time aside to view this exhibit. You'll walk away with a much greater appreciation for the dynamic forces underfoot.

UP COMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Nuts and Bolts

Friday, June 24th, 6-8 pm

Home sweet home. In this night of hands on discovery, families will explore human and animal architecture through multiple stations hosted by the Elgin History Museum and the Elgin Public Museum. Explore the history of architecture in Elgin, including cobblestone houses brought from New York building technique. Discover the many different houses Native Americans built across the country – think beyond the tipi! Learn how animals build using specific techniques. Build an edible bird's nest and investigate the geometry in spider webs. This event will be held at the Elgin History Museum, located at 360 Park Street, Elgin, IL 60120. This is a drop in program with hands-on activities stationed throughout the Museum. No registration required.

Admission \$2 per person

Native American Indian Bead Workshop

Saturday, July 9th,
A.M. session 10-Noon
P.M. session 1-3 pm

Learn the art of beadwork from expert Native American beader Marcelyn Kropp during this hands-on workshop hosted by the Elgin Public Museum. Beadwork has been some of Native Americans' most recognizable art – from beaded leather designs found on moccasins and clothing to beaded strands used for jewelry. Become part of this tradition.

**Cost is \$15 per person
Bead kits can be purchases for
either \$10 or \$15
or you can bring you own beads**

Culture Camp

Tuesday, July 12th through
Friday, July 15th, 9 am to Noon

Travel the world this summer through the Elgin Public Museum! Each day of this four day camp will be dedicated to a different continent, where kids can discover cultures through games, art, music, food and stories. Registration must be completed by June 27. Camp may be cancelled if not enough people register. Contact the Museum for family prices and more information.

**Fee \$85 per child,
EPM members \$65**

Civil War Ghosts and Legends

Thursday, July 14th, 7 pm

This program is cosponsored by the Elgin Area Historical Society and because of the anticipated interest, the program will take place at the Lords Park Pavilion. True stories and legends woven with traditional songs and poetry from the most un-civil war. Join storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis as he takes listeners back in time to the bloody battlefields, gruesome field hospitals and haunted graveyards of America's deadliest war. In the persona of Mathias Stritt, a German immigrant who was one of the first to enlist in Peoria, Illinois and later marched with Sherman as he burned Atlanta and marched to the sea,

**Admission \$10, Members \$8
Reservations Required.**

Geodes & Gems

Saturday July 23rd, 12-2 pm

Geodes are one of the coolest phenomena of geology; deceptively like a regular rock at first glance, when cracked open, geodes reveal beautiful quartz formations. Discover how they formed and even have a chance to crack open one for yourself. Museum representatives will be on hand during this drop-in event. It's FREE. No registration necessary.

Owls and Black Bears

Saturday August 6th, 1-2 pm

Ever have a question about the animals found in the Museum? Ask the experts! Museum staff will be on hand to discuss the Fox Valley animals' natural history, past and present. It's FREE. No registration necessary.

Bison Feeding Schedule

You have no idea how big and impressive these creatures are until you're nose to nose with them.

June 25th, July 30th and August 27th.
**Programs start with an introduction
at the Museum at 7 am**

**\$2 per adult, \$1 pre child
EPM members FREE**

Reservations Required

Make sure you're kept informed about upcoming events and programs. We send out emails as reminders as to what's going on at the Museum.

Continue to check our website for the latest in
Learning Through Adventure.

www.elginpublicmuseum.org

F - Family Program

A - Adult Program