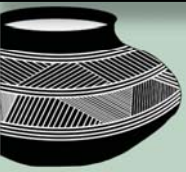


# Summer 2015 Newsletter



## 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

**Labor Day to Memorial Day**  
Saturday & Sunday 12 - 4 p.m.

**Memorial Day to Labor Day**  
Tuesday - Sunday 12 - 4 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

847-741-6655

[www.elginpublicmuseum.org](http://www.elginpublicmuseum.org)



## New Exhibit! Nature by Tony Moline

Enjoy the beautiful photography inspired by the natural world that is Tony Moline's art. You may have seen his work at the Museum before. This time he is showcasing our feathered friends.

## From the desk of the Director

Peggie Stromberg, Executive Director

Summer is just racing by. We've had a successful summer so far. We're especially excited about our upcoming exhibit. It is a collection of nature photographs done by Tony Moline of Dubuque, Iowa. We know Tony just does phenomenal work as we had his photos here several years ago. As before, his work is for sale, but you can't take it until after the exhibition. A reception will be held July 25. Try to come!

The butterfly exhibit is down now, but it attracted some real attention while it was up. We had a butterfly lady, Janie Grillo, come and do a program, telling us how we can help keep these butterflies a part of our "community." The monarchs are so important and they are disappearing rapidly. Everyone, please grow milkweed plants!

Other things we have planned for this summer include our Adventures in the Zoo. Looking further ahead, November

will bring a program on the dark side of Christmas, Krampus, and a Day of the Dead event, geared toward children. Day of the Dead will feature children's activities with face painting and crafts.

We are continuing with our Oberweis fundraiser. Each month people can download the coupon from our website and use it at the Oberweis store on Randall Road. While you are eating ice cream, a portion of each purchase goes to the Museum. Just remember to print off a coupon from our Website or pick one up at the Museum.

Keep your memberships up to date. We need your support more than ever. Visit Lords Park often. We have a wonderful facility here with the Farm Zoo, the Museum and the water park. The Park is really beautiful in summer!



# New Faces at the Museum

Volunteers have clocked in over 170 hours at the Elgin Public Museum so far this summer – and it’s still July! People who donate their time, energy and skills help make this Museum a healthy institution. Meet a few of the wonderful people who have really been involved these last few months.

**Kathryn Rende** is a new addition to the volunteer group here at the

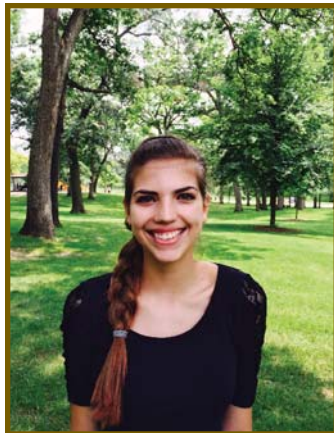
museum. A resident of Elgin for most of her life she currently works at Gail Borden Public Library. Her interest in anthropology, a desire to give back to the community, and her hobby of collecting new



Kathryn Rende

skill sets is a large reason for why she decided to start volunteering here at the Elgin Public Museum. Her handy work can be seen throughout the Museum. Thanks to her the benches have been repainted, exhibits were installed and touched up.

**Kirsten Meltesen** is a junior at St. Charles North High School. She plays on her school’s



Kirsten Meltesen

badminton team and is involved in Model United Nations and Art Club. She hopes to major in biological anthropol-

ogy, which is what led her to begin volunteering at the Elgin Public Museum. Kirsten aims to attend Princeton University or Lawrence University. Her interests include European history, art and biology. In her free time she enjoys reading and writing. You might have seen her at the front desk greeting visitors to the Museum. She has also put her artistic stamp on the Museum – she created the new prairie scene in the Discovery Room.

**Mira Wojcieghowska** has been volunteering at the Elgin Public Museum for the last two summers. Born in Poland, she moved to Chicago in 1996, making Elgin her home several years ago. She enjoys this city as well as the friends and support she has found here. “I want to give something back to this community. I find that Elgin has a lot to offer and we should be grateful for everything.” Her interest in nature made the Elgin Public Museum an ideal place to give back. Last summer she was our



Mira Wojcieghowska

head gardener; this summer you can most often find her greeting guests at the front desk. She also volunteers at the Elgin History Museum and the Lords Park Zoo.

Want to volunteer, too? There are always jobs to be done around the Museum, with the exhibits, education programs and more. Call or email Peggie Stomberg, Sara Russell, or Francesca Zomkowski.

## EPM BOARD MEMBERS

**Martha Yochum**

**Gilbert Nore**

**Clare Ollayos**

**Steve Knight**

**Mary Hill**

**Phil Steader**

**Diane Ramsay Shedd, Emeritus**

**Don Quillman, Emeritus**

**Mark Havemann, Emeritus**

## EPM STAFF

**Margaret “Peggie” Stromberg**

*Executive Director*

peggie\_epm@cityofelgin.org

**Sara Russell**

*Museum Coordinator*

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**Francesca Zomkowski**

*Education Coordinator*

francesca\_epm@cityofelgin.org

**Marge Fox**

*Educator*

**Ines Cintora**

**Georgie Camacho**

*Museum Attendant*

## Elgin Public Museum in Backpacks

Project Backpack, currently in its 6th year, is a community-based initiative led by Elgin Community College to benefit students in need. Approximately 10,000 students have been helped since 2010. EPM is participating by including a flyer that alerts parents and students of EPM’s upcoming events, offering half off on Science Nights for the fall semester. Printing sponsored by Office of Clare M. Ollayos D.C. The supplies will be distributed on Saturday, August 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at ECC’s Spartan Events Center. Please go to <http://project-backpack.org/> for more information.

# Mark Your Calendar with These Upcoming Events

## Of Birds & Murder: The Life of Nathan Leopold

Saturday, July 18 · 7-8 p.m.  
\$5, \$3 members

This adult program examines the life of Nathan Leopold with an emphasis on his passion for birds. Before going to prison for “the crime of the century,” this amateur birder who made important contributions to ornithology, agreed to donate his collection of over 1,000 birds to the Elgin Public Museum. Learn about his bizarre story from naturalist Joel Greenberg, natural history author and Research Associate of the Field Museum. *Registration Required.*



## History of Lords Park Zoo & Bison Feeding

Saturday, July 25 · 7-8:30 a.m.  
\$2/adult, \$1/child, members FREE  
Sponsored by Friends of the Lords Park Zoo

At this very special Bison Feeding, learn about the fascinating history of our gem in the Park - the Lords Park Zoo. The Zoo had a myriad of animals - lions, snakes, and bears included - since its establishment by the Lord Family in the 1890's. Local Elginites still remember hearing the lion's fearsome roar tearing through the night. Between fascinating bits of local Zoo history, assist with the morning feeding routine of the bison, deer, and elk. *Limited to 15 people. Advance registration is required.*

## Nature by Tony Moline Exhibit Reception

Saturday, July 25 · 2-4 p.m.

Meet the photographer of our temporary exhibit that focuses on birds found throughout the Midwest - the common and rare - in beautiful detail. Enjoy refreshments while looking at his art. *This is a drop-in reception; no registration required.*

## Once in a Blue Moon

Thursday, July 30 · 12-1 p.m.  
\$5, \$2 members

It happens once in a blue moon - this time July 30. Join in for some LOONEY lessons and activities before going home to catch the full blue moon in the night sky. *Registration required.*

## Bat Hike

Friday, August 7 · 7:30-9 p.m.  
\$5, \$4 members

Take a walk on the wild side as we look for these nocturnal creatures. Start the program off at the Museum to learn about bats' behaviors and adaptations, then out into the night we go. *Not appropriate for younger children who are easily scared of the dark. Registration required.*

## Geodes & Gems

Wednesday, August 19 · 1-2 p.m.  
\$2

Deceptively like a regular rock at first glance, but when cracked open, geodes reveal beautiful quartz formations. Discover how they formed and crack one open for yourself. *Advanced registration is required.*

## Adventures in the Zoo Series

Sponsored by Friends of the Lords Park Zoo

Have fun learning about natural history from EPM staff at the Lords Park Zoo. These programs are drop-in and **FREE!** *May be canceled due to extreme heat or weather.*

### Camouflage

Saturday July 18 · 12-2 p.m.

### Moths vs. Butterflies

Saturday, July 25 · 12-2 p.m.

### Tremendous Trees

Saturday, August 1 · 12-2 p.m.

### Skulls & All

Saturday, August 15 · 12-2 p.m.

## Bison Feeding in Lords Park

Sponsored by Friends of the Lords Park Zoo

Join us for an up close look at the bison, deer, and elk at the Lords Park Zoo. Meet at the Museum for a short introduction after which we head to the Zoo to assist the zookeeper in feeding these magnificent creatures. *Limited to 12 people. Advance registration is required.*

Saturday, August 29 · 7-8:30 a.m.  
\$2/adult, \$1/child, members FREE

Saturday, September 26 · 7-8:30 a.m.  
\$2/adult, \$1/child, members FREE

## Food Science Night

September TBA · 6-8 p.m.  
\$2 per person, members free

A yummy Science Night that digs into the science of food in different experimental stations set up around the Museum. *No registration needed for this drop-in program.*

# Bats!

by Sara Russell

Bats are one of the most beneficial mammals on Earth. Fruit bats in the tropics pollinate over 400 plants and trees, including foods humans love like papaya, mango and most importantly – coffee. These busy animals also work hard in the desert – being the main pollinator of cactus and other desert plants. Without them, we would have no agave nectar and no tequila. Closer to home, we rely on bats to control the insect populations. One brown bat can eat 1,000 mosquitoes in just one hour.

The more one learns about these (generally) nocturnal creatures the more fascinating they become. Contrary to popular lore, bats are not blind as, well, a bat. Most species have excellent night vision that aids in hunting and scavenging. Hanging upside down is a practical matter. It is easier to take off and fly from that position. Unlike birds, who have hollow bones that make them lighter for flight, bats' bones are solid making them awfully heavy. They just also don't have the muscles or skeleton to support standing. Their wings are nothing more than elongated fingers with membrane attached.

There are over 1,250 species of bats worldwide. They come in all shapes and sizes and are unique



*Year-round Illinois resident, the Big Brown Bat*



*Above: Tubed nosed fruit bat*

*Left: Chapin's bat*



creatures. Some have been the stuff of horror stories – think of the blood sucking vampire bats of Central and South

America. Not to worry there are only three such species. Others are notable for their outlandish appearance. Chapin's bat of central Africa looks reminiscent of a Chihuahua sporting a mohawk. Found in the Philippines, the tube nosed fruit bat looks like it has two straws on its face.

In Illinois we have 12 species of bats, all are insectivores and small, generally weighing less than an ounce. The year round residence who hibernate over the winter months are the little brown bat, northern long-eared myotis,

Indian bat, southeastern bat, eastern pipistrelle, and the big brown bat. The grey bat, eastern red bat, silver-haired

bat, and Rafinesques big-eared bat hedge their bets. Sometimes they stick around to brave out winter, but often they head south when the cold hits. The hoary bat and evening bat can only be found in Illinois during the summer months.

To see these bats Illinois naturalists suggest taking a trip up to Volo Bog or out to Lake County Forest Preserve, Shelter E where over 500 little brown bats have taken up residency for the past 10 years. Zoos are another good place to see them up close. Or you can hang out in a local park at dusk and watch for bats flying overhead eating mosquitoes. **Hopefully some of you will join us for the Bat Hike in Lords Park on Friday, August 7 at 7:30 p.m.**

# New Exhibit: Nature through the Lens of Photography



*Yellow Bellied Sapsucker  
by Tony Moline  
on Exhibit*

*“My hope is that through my images the community will gain a greater appreciation for all things in the natural world, big and small, ugly and beautiful; every little thing in life is a work of art and I am its interpreter.”*

-Tony Moline

The photography of Tony Moline fuses his passion for the art medium with his love of nature. This temporary exhibit scheduled to run through the end of August focuses on birds found throughout the Midwest – common and rare – in beautiful detail. Moline’s goal “has always been to expose the people of the Midwest to the variety of life found within a few miles of their home.”

Tony Moline is based out of Dubuque, Iowa. He studied photography with a focus on photojournal-

ism and computer imaging at Hawk-eye Community College. Moline honed his skills working at Yellowstone National Park and returned to the Midwest to train his lens on local subjects.

**Meet the artist on July 25 for the Exhibit Reception.** Drop in between 2-4 p.m. to see the exhibit and talk to Tony Moline. Refreshments provided.

Moline’s art is for sale at the Museum. Most of the framed pieces on display are for sale as well as unframed prints and cards, which can be found in the store. Framed pieces in the exhibit cannot be taken until the exhibit ends. Please ask the Museum staff for help if interested in a piece.



## Birds of Prey at EPM

Naturalists from the Stillman Nature Center in West Barrington came out to the Elgin Public Museum on June 20, bringing with them birds of prey. The live raptors included eastern screech owls, a broad winged hawk, a barn owl and a barred owl. The naturalists discussed the animals’ natural history, answered questions from the audience, and brought these creatures within a foot or two from the public. As Sean Loss of Elgin put it, “They are such beautiful creatures. It’s so neat to see how they move.”

This program was staged at the Elgin Public Museum, while Mu-



*Onlookers see the barred owl up close. This bird of prey is known for its call that sounds like “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?”*

seum Educator Marge Fox was down at the Farm Zoo for the complementary Adventures in the Zoo program called ‘Birds of Prey.’ Marge had a barn owl and a hawk specimen from the Museums collection for people

to view up close. Adventures in the Zoo programs take place on selected Saturdays throughout the summer from noon-2 p.m. and is sponsored by Friends of the Lords Park Zoo.



**CELEBRATE**  
**ELGIN'S 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

— WITH —

FOOD • PERFORMERS • MUSIC  
 MARKETS • ARTS & CRAFTS  
 From cultures around the world

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 AM to 7:00 PM**

**on the Riverside Drive Promenade**

Visit [www.elginifest.org](http://www.elginifest.org)  
 to keep up to date

   
 #Elginifest



The Elgin Public Museum is collaborating with the City of Elgin, the local community and business leaders to hold the fourth annual International Festival, known as IFest, on Saturday, August 29 from

ing through an Asian conclave, then to a European center, a Latin American stronghold, and so on.

Elgin Public Museum Education Coordinator Francesca Zomkowski is co-chair of the European region. She and co-chair Sara Russell has arranged for the participation of a Bavarian brass band, a Polish dance troop, demonstrations in the Swedish art of *dala* horse painting and decorating Ukrainian Easter Eggs



*Continuing the Swedish tradition of decorating dala at 2014 IFest.*

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Elgin's newly developed Riverside Drive Promenade. IFest will bring together dozens of the world's cultures, showcasing cultural traditions found throughout the Greater Fox Valley of Northern Illinois.

The free festival will feature music and entertainment, ethnic cuisine, children's activities, a "world market" and cultural arts and crafts. The festival will be sectioned into regions, so that it will feel that like festival goers are walk-



*Hawaiian dancer at 2014 IFest*

called *pysanka*, to name just a few of the activities. Highlights from other regions include a Mariachi band, Chinese drummers, and Indian dancers. Please contact Francesca Zomkowski at [francesca\\_epm@cityofelgin.org](mailto:francesca_epm@cityofelgin.org) if you would like to participate as a cultural vender, a performer, or a food vender.

## Passport to Asia: A Celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage



The Elgin Public Museum co-sponsored the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event "Passport to Asia" with the Gail Borden Library, the Elgin History Museum and the YWCA of Elgin. The May 16 celebration featured artifacts and performances at the Gail Borden Library. Tables were setup in the rotunda along the main hall showcasing cultural and religious objects, pictures, books, clothing, and spices, giving a glimpse at these cultures. The children's center had crafts and the teen room hosted karaoke.

The Laos Oral History Project documentary told the story of the people who were forced to emigrate from war-torn Laos to Elgin after the Secret War on Laos was waged during the Vietnam War.

Chinese, Lao, Indian and Filipino performers showcased beautiful dances. The audience was invited up to the stage to learn Bollywood moves from the Indian dance troop, and while some people were more successful than others in following along, everyone had fun. Tinkling, the Filipino stick dance starts with the rhythm. Two seated performers create a rhythm by tapping a five foot long stick on the floor and clapping the sticks together. Dancers will dance between, over and to the side of these sticks while the tapping and clapping continue, similar to skilled jump ropers.