



LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART

Newsletter & Calendar of Events

SUMMER 2013



Museum Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays and July 4th.

Admission

\$5.00 Adults, \$4.00 Senior Citizens,
\$3.00 Students & Teenagers
\$2.00 Children 7 to 12 yrs.
Free for children under 7 yrs.
Friday is Free day.
Members of the Lizzadro Museum and active members of the Armed Forces are admitted free of charge on any day the Museum is open to the public.

Group Tours

Tours can be arranged for groups with special interests or needs. Reservations are necessary for guided tours.



The Museum has facilities to provide access for physically disabled visitors.

Visit us at lizzadromuseum.org

See the Museum Shop online.
Volunteer forms are available.



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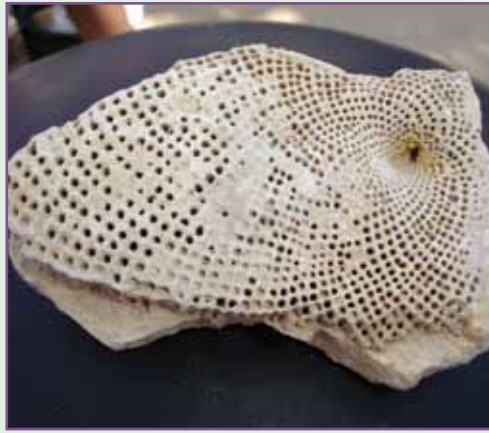
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Illinois Arts Council

The Lizzadro Museum joins many museums nationwide in participating in the National Endowments of the Arts, Blue Star Museum to show our appreciation for military personnel and their families. Active duty military personnel and up to five family members with ID are admitted to the museum free of charge from May 28 through September 8, 2013. For more information visit: www.bluestarfam.org.



Farm Quarry near Rockford, Illinois is a good example of the Ordovician Epoch dolomitic limestone that yields good marine fossils.



Fossil Algae (*Receptaculites*) found at Irene Quarry in Belvidere, Illinois is a good example of a replacement fossil.



This gastropod fossil is a mold of the actual shell. The brass colored crystals inside are pyrite.

Fossils: Windows to the Past

By Sara Johnson

During the middle of the Ordovician Epoch, roughly 478 million years ago, an ocean inundated northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The result: the Platteville Formation. This highly dolomitic limestone rock unit covers northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. It is well known for its fossil content. Everything from several trilobite species, to numerous brachiopods and cephalopods, as well as algae and coral species can be observed throughout the region. Often, these fossils are found as replacement fossils – a process that occurs when minerals in the environment replace the actual skeletal parts of the organism. Unfortunately, due to the dolomitization process that altered the chemical make-up of the limestone, many fossils were destroyed. However, with a keen eye, these replacement fossils can be observed in various areas throughout the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area.

The significance of fossil finds stretches beyond the fascination of finding something “cool.” Fossils can actually be windows into the past. Using our knowledge of our current environment, we can infer what Earth may have looked like millions of years ago. In the present day, we know that reef systems, like the Caribbean today, are located in tropic regions with specific temperature requirements, typically around 77° to 84° F (Nehm and Bemis, 2002). If you have ever visited one of these reefs, you know that it is teeming with life. It is not hard to imagine that this would have also been the case 400 million years ago, although we would expect the life to look a little different! That is exactly what geologists think northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin looked like! In fact, it is thought that during the Ordovician time period,

most of the North American continent was completely submerged under water and located in tropical latitudes, rotated approximately 45° clockwise of its current orientation. Simply looking at, and understanding rocks can help geologists learn about the way Earth formed.

Using fossil records, geologists have been able to explore our dynamic Earth and see how it has changed over time. Looking around in Illinois and Wisconsin, it is difficult to imagine a tropical sea covering the land as we know it. It is only with the aid of the surrounding rocks that we are able to understand our past, and perhaps predict our future. The next time you are out collecting those cool fossils, just think about how that fossil is actually a window to our past!

All the pictures featured with this article are from Lizzadro Museum collecting field trips to the Rockford, Illinois area. Sara Johnson is a geologist and the Museum's educator.

References:

Nehm, Ross H. and Bemis, Bryan E., 2002, *Common Paleozoic Fossils of Wisconsin: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Educational Series 45.*

Willman, H.B. and Kolata, D.R., 1978, *The Platteville and Galena Groups in northern Illinois: Illinois State Geological Survey Circular 502.*

Clos, Lynne M., 2008, *North America Through Time: A Paleontological History of our Continent : Fossil News, Boulder Colorado.*

Painting with stone

By Derek Levin



My former editor, Merle White, editor of “Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist” magazine, once said “Levin has had more careers than most people have had jobs.” This is true. I have been a carpenter, a plumber, a waiter, a traveling salesman, a Maine lumberman, a clam digger, a social worker, a college English teacher, a member of the Vermont House of Representatives, a union organizer, a freelance writer/journalist. And for the last 20 some years no matter what else I’ve been doing for a living, I’ve also been cutting, carving and faceting stones.

Of all the stones to begin cutting, I started with opals – often infuriating with its challenging play of color. I taught myself to carve stone. And have since, taught many students to cut and carve stone.

Being self-taught has its advantages and disadvantages. You don’t get the advantage of learning the shortcuts in your craft. On the other hand, no one has told you what the standard way is, as a craftsman, in order to conform artistically or professionally to the industry. Also, no one has said to me you can’t do that, that way. So you create your own style, picking up or developing what you need as you go along.

In Memoriam

David Burnside passed away on March 15, 2013. He was 80 years old. An Elmhurst resident and talented artist, Mr. Burnside was commissioned to paint the Museum diorama backgrounds beginning in the 1960s. He worked with Museum staff through the 1980s to create most of the twenty dioramas on display.

A graduate of the Philadelphia Museum School of Art now the University of Arts, he began in illustration and branched into large-scale murals creating custom installations for banks, restaurants and libraries across the country. His favorite medium was watercolor. He was a member of the Elmhurst Artists’ Guild for many years.

The Museum staff was always happy to see him on return visits with his family. We appreciate his contribution to our unique miniature scenes. The Museum dioramas continue to be loved and enjoyed by all ages.



An exact replica of Ziggy’s cage at Brookfield Zoo, Horace Greene and David Burnside created the Ziggy diorama in 1975.

After carving wood for many years, I started cutting stone then carving stone. I began cutting stones in different ways. Beyond that, because I was a writer and a storyteller, I started telling stories with the stones.

Creating stories and designs with the stones brought me to what may be a new concept. I call it, “Painting With Stone.” Using the colors, light, textures and mineral structures in the gems, I make 3-dimensional scenarios, puzzles, toys, pictures and designs with stone. The same things that other ‘fine’ artists might do.

One feature that characterizes just about all of my sculptures is that each piece of every sculpture is separate and can be moved around to create multiple variations of the original – new stories and designs.

There’s one other factor I include in most of my work. In the ‘Lapidary Art World,’ there is a general tendency to stick close to what is called, ‘representational’ in fine art. However, I see “painting with stone” as a fine art that requires new craftsmanship, using different mediums. I explore different approaches using the medium of stone and other materials, just as fine art is allowed to do. Exploring this concept includes one of the seemingly inviolate rules of lapidary art, ignoring the often absolutist dictates of a high polish.

To that end, I even call one approach to some of my work “Abstract Primitive.” You’ll find that in this exhibit.

Derek Levin’s work will be on display at the Museum from June 18 through September 15, 2013. He will present a lecture on his technique and philosophy on Saturday, August 24 at 2p.m.

VISITING ARTIST



“Stone Inspiration: The Lapidary Art of Derek Levin”

Artist, Derek Levin is a self-taught lapidary and native of Vermont. He uses gems as well as other stones, wood, and metal to create three-dimensional sculptures of interchangeable and re-arrangeable parts. His technique includes carving, cutting and faceting to create whimsical displays. “Blue Plate Special” (above) features a variety of stones both rough and polished, silver and Mahogany wood. On the cover, “River Child” was inspired by Owyhee Jasper.

Calendar of Events July thru September 2013



SPECIAL EXHIBIT "Stone Inspiration: The Lapidary Art of Derek Levin"

JUNE 18 THOUGH SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

The art of Derek Levin embodies a true lapidary spirit. His works are made by juxtaposing found stones, cut, carved and faceted gemstones and other natural materials to create a whimsical world of re-arrangeable works of art. "Stackable Blocks" pictured here features free form faceted gems.

Regular Museum Hours & Admission

"Rock & Mineral Identification"



Geologist Sara Johnson presents an introduction to rocks and minerals. Learn how to make a basic mineral test kit. Hands on identification procedures include observation skills and hardness tests. Great for teachers and rockhounds, this program qualifies for Scout merit badges. All materials are provided.

Activity – Ages 8 yrs. to Adult
75 minutes

Admission: \$5.00 per person, Museum Members: \$3.00

Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

Saturday, July 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Adult supervision is required for Scout groups.

Saturday, July 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m.

JULY 20

"Fossil Collecting Field Trips"

Travel by motor coach to new quarries in Illinois and Wisconsin. Collect Ordovician Period (450 million years old) marine fossils in dolomitic limestone. Collectable fossils include: brachiopods, cephalopods, corals, crinoids, gastropods, and more.

Field Trips - Ages 8 yrs. to Adult

July 20 to Wisconsin - 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$55.00 per person

Museum Members \$50.00

August 17 in Illinois - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$45.00 per person

Museum Members \$40.00

Reservations Required: 630-833-1616



AUGUST 3

"Dynamic Earth Activities at Green Fest"

Museum geologist Sara Johnson offers activities for children K thru 4th grade. Designed to demonstrate earth's unique treasures, experience sifting for fossils and minerals, creating fossil and crystal imprints and putting together a Pangaea puzzle. Held in Wilder Park and hosted by the Elmhurst Park District, Green Fest promotes environmentally safe practices, green companies and organizations with resources for the environmentally conscious. For more information see www.elmhurstgreenfest.org.

Booth in Wilder Park - Free

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Summer is a great time to visit the museums in Kane and DuPage Counties. Designed for ages 4 to 12, each site has an activity for children to complete. Visit 7 or more sites and win a prize! The Summer Passport program ends Labor Day.

AUGUST 24

"Stone Inspiration: The Lapidary Art of Derek Levin"

Artist Derek Levin will present his process for choosing and cutting stones, his penchant for creating impermanent compositions with gemstones and his inspiration for creating lapidary art.

Lecture - Adult

2 p.m. - 60 minutes

Reservations Recommended

Regular Museum Admission

SEPTEMBER 14

"Soapstone Carving"

Lapidary Lorel Abrell teaches participants how to successfully carve soapstone. Simple tools and techniques are used in carving this soft and inexpensive material. Learn the basics from blocking out a design to final polish. Take home a carving of your own creation. All materials are included.

Activity - ages 9 yrs to Adult

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fee: \$15.00 per person

Museum Members \$10.00

Reservations Required: 630-833-1616



SEPTEMBER 28

"Celebrate Smithsonian Museum Day – Geode Find"

As a Smithsonian, Affiliate the Lizzadro Museum will feature a special exhibit from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Children and adults can participate in "Geode Find" an activity to find and crack open your very own geode to take home. Free admission will be offered to visitors presenting a Museum Day Ticket available on-line at smithsonianmag.com/museumday. The Museum Day Ticket provides free admission to one person, and a guest.

Activity - Ages 5 yrs. to Adult

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Regular Museum Admission or Free with

Smithsonian Museum Day Ticket

Museum Members Free

LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART

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We would like to hear from you. Please direct questions or comments to info@lizzadromuseum.org