



FOLKLORE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

A Not-For-Profit Organization

Vol. 39, August 2005



Eagle's View of the Prairie

Two new bridges and four benches give a new view of Folklore Village's Prairie Restoration project. Mike Wooley, 16, designed, raised funds and built these view points to earn the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. "I chose to build this bridge because local organizations are always in need of someone willing to do volunteer work. This bridge is a structure that will be around for years to come and it will serve as a landmark of recognition for hard work and the dedication to the community that is provided by the Boy Scouts of America," said this exceptional teen. The main bridge overlooks not only the prairie and Folklore Village site, but is situated above more than 100 surface lead mining holes. The four benches give wonderful destination points and breathtaking views along the prairie trails we are developing.

Eagle Scout Mike Wooley on recently completed bridge.

Folklore Village and Mike would like to thank Mike's family and friends and the following Dodgeville businesses and organizations who contributed to this project: Kiwanis, Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, Pizza Hut, Thrivent Financial (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood), Uplands Garden Club, VFW, Lands' End, Singer Lumber, Oak Tree Construction, Landscape Construction, LLC, and Dodgeville Boy Scout Troop 165.

Folklore Village is working on the final phase of this project - a self-guided tour, complete with kiosks that explain the prairie and the lead mining that used to be essential to this area. We invite you to come enjoy the soaring views!

Folk Fare 2005

"Not your ordinary dinner plates"

By Nancy Welch, FV Board President

Twelve area artists have contributed unique pieces of "plate art" for our 2nd Annual Folk Fare Fundraiser. Each artist created their piece around a dinner plate because sharing a meal is a special time of connecting with people at Folklore Village - and we all love the delicious food served during festivals! It also emphasizes the nourishment this organization provides the heart, mind and soul.



Funds raised during this raffle and dance will help Folklore Village continue the strong programming efforts that reach our children, families and community. Please support Folklore Village, the artists who donated their time and talents, and all the volunteers selling tickets by purchasing as many raffle tickets as you can and by attending the finale event November 12.

Continued on page 3

Midwest Folklife Festival, August 20 & 21

A wide variety of cultures and traditions give the Midwest its charm. Folklore Village is honored to celebrate the music, crafts, dances and foods that tell the story of the many peoples that make their home in the Upper Midwest during the Midwest Folklife Festival, August 20 and 21, 2005. From noon to seven each day there will be ethnic and folk culture presentations on our main stage, discussions and stories at the Plum Grove Church narrative stage, fourteen folk artists demonstrating their work at stations around the Folklore Village grounds and ethnic cooking demonstrations in Farwell Hall. Children can join in a "Folklife Scavenger Hunt" and other activities. This festival is free and open to the public thanks to support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Lands' End, Friends of Folklore Village, Wisconsin Arts Board, Wisconsin Humanities Council, Illinois Arts Council and the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures.

- ♥ Demonstrations: *Ghanaian Drum Construction, East Indian Henna Painting, Croatian Egg Decorating, Dutch Folk Painting, Ojibwa Quill Work and Birch Bark Basketry, Norwegian Hardanger Fiddle Construction, Mexican Day of the Dead Altars, Hmong Instrument Building, Classical Dances from India, Tinsmithing and more!*
- ♥ Musicians: *Sones de Mexico, The Rhythm Playboys, Psalms, the Southern Wisconsin Old Time Fiddlers Association, The Monroe Swiss Singers and the Mississippi Valley Dutchmen!*

Excerpts (unedited) from school program thank you letters. These letters mean the world to us and reaffirm the importance of our organization.

"I didn't just have fun, I learned some things to!"
Jackson, 4th grade

"I had a blast doing all those things with you. It was just the best field trip I have ever had!"
Briana, 3rd grade.

"The boys were thinking they wouldn't like dancing but there were some smiling!" Grace, 4th grade

"I usually don't sing, but I had a great time singing 'She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain."
Amanda, 4th grade.

"It was really fun playing the games with you. I liked all of them! Nice!" Anna, 3rd grade

"I liked when we stook our hands in the goop with our wool balls! it was really fun!" Claire, 3rd grade

Making felt in the soap slime.



Indian Dancers Perform and Teach

On April 16th our eyes, feet and spirit received a glorious treat when Meenakshi Ganesan and students of her Kalaanjali School of Dance & Music joined us during our *World Dance Night* Saturday Night Social. These remarkable young women shared classical and folk dances from India made up of intricate moves that each symbolize a part of the story that dance is conveying. The explanations before each performance aided in our understanding and enjoyment of the culture and the dance. Then it was our turn! Before our lesson we took off our shoes and socks because the dances are done in bare feet. As all of us, age 3 to 90, stood barefoot together, eager to learn from our guests, you could feel our spirits connecting.

I wish we had an organization like Folklore Village in our community where open minded people from different backgrounds can come together in a friendly environment and share their skills while experiencing each other's culture from multiple perspectives."

-Meenakshi Ganesan

PROGRAMS

Folklife ~ Your Life

"Did you know that folklife is when someone passes something on to you and you pass it on to someone else?"

This was the beginning of a letter from Karley, a 4th grade student who recently attended our "Folklife ~ Your Life" field trip. This program is a favorite among students and teachers alike - it is not only fun, but gives students a greater understanding of themselves and their families as well as an appreciation of the importance of passing on traditions from around the world and their own neighborhood. The program starts with an inspiring talk by Doug that engages kids into thinking, laughing and connecting the field trip activities to their own lives. The classes then break into small groups to participate in a variety of activities including:

How Have You "Felt" Lately? Students wrap their fingers (literally) around the history and process of making felt from wool. They make their own felt ball which includes dunking the wool into "soap slime" to make the scales on the wool lock together.

Life is a Dance. Children learn how people from many cultures have been dancing throughout history. They participate in social dances from several parts of the world, which gets their feet moving and faces grinning.

The Bee in the Fiddle is a lively melding of song and story in our historic Plum Grove Church. Fiddles, a dulcimer, a tiny harmonica, and an old saw are used to introduce kids to the joy of music. Everyone walks out of this session singing!

Hey! Let's Play takes place in the 112 year old Wakefield School, where students learn what it was like to go to a one-room school and play old-fashioned games that require only your imagination, creative thinking and energy! Their eyes light up when they figure out the "magic broom" games and their laughter can be heard for miles.

After breaking into small groups and learning two basic movements (which were a bit tricky!) we "performed" the moves for each other. It was amazing. Meenakshi commented, "It was a wonderful experience to perform at Folklore Village. We felt at home from the time we reached there. We enjoyed performing as well as teaching Indian Classical Dance steps to the friendly and very open-minded audience and look

forward to performing again at Folklore Village!"

Wish you'd had the chance to learn from this wonderful group? You still can! We are honored that Meenakshi and her students will be on staff during our 58th Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions!

PROGRAMS

Q: What do you call an organization that has 204 programs in a year with only three full time staff members?

A: Crazy? Maybe. Ambitious? You bet. Folklore Village? Yes!! That's right, we had 204 programs in 2004. Not all of these are on our public calendar as many are school programs and senior outreach programs, but believe us - we really did all of them. Our programs, outreach and services reached over 11,500 people! Of these, approximately 1,200 were seniors, 600 were teens and 3,000 were children. We are proud to be able to share these large attendance numbers, but they are not simply numbers to us. They are hearts, minds, and smiles. We pour ourselves into this organization because we truly believe we are enriching lives and want to offer as broad a program schedule as possible.

As you can imagine, with only three full time staff people, the enormity of this task can be overwhelming. Any help you could offer will be warmly welcomed. Volunteers have opportunities to work with staff and other volunteers. If you have volunteered to help and we haven't contacted you, please forgive us! With the number of programs we plan and the recent staff health issues, sometimes we are even too busy to take time to nurture and utilize our volunteers. (Yes, this is the epitome of irony.) Please be patient with us and contact us again. Now, more than ever, we need your flexibility, support, understanding and help (as always).

Engaging All Ages

Spring Family Day, co-sponsored with the Family Resource Center of Iowa County, brought all ages out for activities. Our annual Spring and Fall Family Days are designed to bridge the gaps between generations by providing engaging, traditional activities that everyone can participate in together. On May 7th, people young and old danced around our colorful Maypole, got wrapped up in snakes and other reptiles from Bethel Horizons, rode on a horse-drawn wagon around our prairie and admired baby farm animals brought by Scott and Carrie Shelstad. Jamaican storyteller Sonia Valle shared tales during a special performance that involved audience participation on numerous rhythm instruments. These free afternoons are provided in part by the United Fund of Iowa County. Our Fall Harvest Family Day is October 1 from 1-4 pm.



Chirps Smith (R), award winning old time fiddler, plays a Norwegian Hardanger fiddle crafted by National Heritage Fellow Ron Poast (L) before the May Barn Dance.

Folk Fare (Continued from page 1)

The plates can be viewed online at www.folklorevillage.org, at all the terrific events at Folklore Village or at Hilldale Mall in Madison from August 23 - September 15.

Join us for the *Folk Fare Finale*: raffle drawing, distinctive desserts and dancing to Last Gaspé on November 12, 2005, from 7:30 pm to 11 pm. (\$15 suggested donation.) Call (608) 924-4000 to purchase raffle tickets or to reserve your place for November 12. Last year's Folk Fare raised \$8,500. Help us reach our goal of doubling that this year!

Pen-and-ink drawing of Folklore Village (page 1) by Don Macaulay, artist, dancer and past Folklore Village Board member.

Staff Quiz Answers (from Page 6)
 1. Hibiscus: Bonnie - Truth is, all flowers delight me, except maybe the corpse flower the UW is so proud of. Foxgloves:
 Doug - These remind me of my very special Grandma Marshall. Wild Bergamot: Melissa - These look like my hair often
 does! 2. Bonnie - Ok, I've learned to make haste but I still leave a trail of debris! 3. Melissa - Don't knock it till you try it!
 4. Trick question - we all do! (hint hint) 5. Doug - Turtles have touched my heart and have long been a part of my life. 6.
 Dostoyevsky-Doug, Rumi-Bonnie, Shel Silverstein-Melissa

From the Director

I send my heartfelt thanks to each of you who sent cards, prayers and well wishes during my recent health challenges. These caring messages continue to be sources of encouragement and healing as I learn to manage my heart disease and work to return to full health. I am feeling stronger with each passing day.

As you can imagine, this has been a time of great reflection for me and I want to share some of the things that have come to mind.

This fall I will begin my 15th year as Director of Folklore Village. I continue to feel quite blessed to be working in a cause so close to my heart and to have your fellowship and support along the way. This place and its community of people continue to amaze, delight and enrich my life.

I am reminded that this wonderful organization and place has thrived for a number of reasons: the physical and financial support of individuals across the country and around the globe; an extremely dedicated volunteer community and staff that regularly gives their all; and most importantly, because Folklore Village continues to help people grow, learn, play, remember and connect.

It takes a whole village to care for Folklore Village. Whether you are a new volunteer or have just been away for a while, I invite you to be a part of our mission and to help this vital organization continue to grow and thrive. We need all individuals who care about Folklore Village to step forward. We are always looking for individuals to serve on boards and committees, help with fundraising activities, promote events, serve as ambassadors, and help care for our buildings, grounds and prairie. We also need your financial support. Every gift large or small helps us meet the rising costs of insurance, utilities and maintenance. Your generosity of time or money will literally help shape the present and secure the future of Folklore Village.

One of the first things I tell the school children when they arrive for a field trip is that Folklore Village is a lot like their school, it isn't owned by a person, it belongs to everyone who comes here. It belongs to each one of them. It belongs to you.

I look forward to seeing you, to dreaming, planning and working together for the future of this incredible place.

Melissa's Message

Do you know how often I run up the steps in Farwell Hall during a program? I was contemplating this boggling number the other day as I climbed when I started thinking about how many times people are raised up at Folklore Village. Each program – each little step - brings you higher, strengthens your spirit, and delights you with a different view. Take a bare step on our dance floor with women from India (up a step), listen to the notes of a blues musician who's lived it all, (up another), tap your toes to an Irish jig with a champion fiddler, waltz with your child, jam with musicians from the bayou, wrap your fingers around crafts from another country, dance to the age old sounds of Scandinavia, let your soul soar as sweet harmonies are sung in our historic church, enjoy a meal with your loved ones. We strive to bring you quality experiences from many cultures in an effort to lift you higher. Every time you step through the doors of Folklore Village you gain a broader perspective of the world and the beauty that lies within it and within you. Please take the hands of those around you and come climb with me. Together we'll reach the heavens!



Bonnie's Recipe Corner

We've received many requests for recipes over the years. Since we all love to eat, we've decided to include a favorite in every upcoming newsletter. This one is a delicious and nourishing meal that, like most good concoctions, gets even better the next day.

Happy cooking!
Bonnie

HEARTY VEGETABLE STEW

Serves 15

- 1 c. olive oil
- 1 c. diced onions
- 2 c. thinly sliced carrots
- 2 c. thinly sliced leeks
- 2 large cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 gallon water
- 1/4 c. concentrated vegetable broth base
- 1 pound dried red lentils
- 1 pound canned red beans, drained
- 1 small butternut squash, peeled and cubed
- 1 t. celery seed, crushed
- 2 t. salt (or to taste)
- 1/2 t. freshly ground black pepper
- 2 t. cumin seed
- 1 t. curry powder
- 1 c. rice

In a large pot, heat the olive oil and add the onions, carrots and leeks. Sauté until the vegetables soften, about 20 minutes. Add the garlic and stir the mixture for one more minute. Add the water, vegetable base, lentils, beans, squash, celery seed, salt, pepper, cumin, and curry powder. Cover tightly and simmer over low heat, stirring occasionally, until the lentils and squash soften (approx. 30-40 minutes). Add the rice, simmering until tender. Additional water may be needed to reach the desired consistency. Serve hot, with crusty bread.

EVENTS

Multi-day festivals are a great way to immerse yourself in cultures from around the world!

- ☘ Swedish Dance & Music Weekend
October 28-30, 2005 focusing on Dalarna, Sweden
- ☘ 58th Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions, Dec. 28, 2005-Jan 1, 2006
- ☘ English Country Dance & Music Weekend
March 10-12, 2006
- ☘ Cajun Dance & Music Weekend
March 31-April 2, 2006
- ☘ Scandinavian Dance & Music Weekend
April 21-23 (*tentative*) featuring Hälsingland

Earlier Registration Beneficial to All

As you may know, we were forced to cancel our Scandinavian Midsummer Festival this year. Our original dance and music staff had a last minute, unforeseen conflict. It took a few weeks to arrange other talented artists which gave us limited promotional time. Registration numbers were too low for us to provide the dynamic festival folks have come to expect of our programming. This was a very rare and difficult decision for us and we hope it doesn't occur again. It highlights the necessity for you to register **earlier** for all of our programs, as we make vital decisions at least two weeks before an event begins. We still accept last minute registrations but offer reduced tuition to those who sign up early.

From a friend...

Dear Doug, Melissa and Bonnie,

I can only speak for myself, but perhaps others, like me, feel guilty and sad and full of regrets over our lack of effort to visualize the big undertaking of a festival. Would I want to go ahead and plan even a small dinner party without knowing well beforehand how many guests would show up? Of course not.

For years, you have given us so much leeway to sign up or show up at the last minute, and we have always taken for granted that no matter what, you would be there to provide a fabulous festival. Maybe you should have been tougher a long time ago and have set sign-up deadlines commensurate with how much time you need to plan the last details. So, at this Midsummer Festival time we had to learn the hard way, and I can only say that we, who didn't sign up in time, deserve it.

I am very sorry for the work and preparation you still had to go through, so please accept my apologies for not signing up early for this event and for my same bad habits in the past.

*Sincerely,
A Long Time Festival Attendee*

ON GROUNDS

**Farmhouse needs someone to love
(and we need a caretaker)**

Do you love the peaceful hills and quaint towns surrounding Folklore Village? Have you ever wished you could stay longer when our festivals end? Folklore Village is in search of a hard working, skilled caretaker who would be able to live on site. Please call for a job description. (608) 924-4000.

Aslak Lie Norwegian House Update

We are bringing the logs of this historic Norwegian house, built by craftsman and community leader Aslak Olsen Lie, on site to begin the cleaning/repairing process. This is a large undertaking and we need help restoring this piece of history. "Wood" you like to wrap your hands around this project? We'll train volunteers to do this essential process. Please give us a call if you're interested!



Farwell Hall is a bit more weather proof these days with its brand new shingles, thanks to your support during our fall fundraising campaign. Our seven buildings give us spaces to gather

and create the magical place that is Folklore Village. To keep these places comfortable, the buildings require constant care and maintenance-your generous support is appreciated anytime!

Looking for a great place for weddings, receptions, retreats and conferences? Farwell Hall and the Historic Plum Grove church are available for rental. Bonnie will be happy to discuss opportunities for holding your special event at Folklore Village!



Bennett Cardille Wedding

How Well Do You Know The Staff?

Answers upside down on bottom of page 3.

1. Whose favorite flower is the Hibiscus? Fox Gloves? Wild Bergamot?
2. Who has adopted the phrase, "I might be slow but I sure do a sloppy job" since age 16?
3. Whose favorite sandwich is cheese and raisin bread?
4. Who loves imported Swiss Chocolate?
5. Who wants a tattoo of a sea turtle?
6. Who's favorite author is Dostoyevsky? Rumi? Shel Silverstein?



Bonnie, Doug and Melissa



FOLKLORE VILLAGE STAFF

Doug Miller, Executive Director

Melissa Leef, Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

Bonnie Isaacson-Miller, Office Manager & Foodways Coordinator

Jeremiah Miller, Interim Caretaker

In Memoriam:

Jane Farwell, Founder and Guiding Spirit

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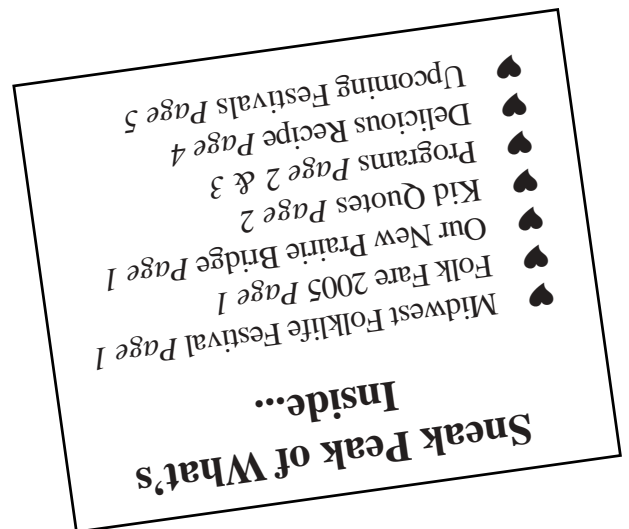
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