

## July to August 2017

### Exhibits report: July

- Basic cleaning of the gallery spaces; dusting, sweeping, and checking for bugs
  - Prepping for Association of Lifelong Learners presentation July 13th
- Work towards the final preparations regarding the Reaccreditation site visit
  - A final quick sweep through storage areas looking for bugs and basic cleaning
  - Putting away all collections files into their proper location
  - Double checking the environmental logs in each storage room
  - Cleaning up any unresolved work areas, such as collection backlog in the classroom
  - Spot cleaning the permanent exhibits on the main & lower levels
- The site visit was July 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> the museum was closed for a private reception for Elizabeth “Betsy” Willis
  - The reception was held in the Wilson Gallery

### Exhibits report: August

- Basic cleaning of the gallery spaces; dusting, sweeping, and checking for bugs
- Setting the Judy Dawley watercolor exhibit around the Planetarium
  - I had a volunteer prep the labels
- Setting the Rose Wojda, 2016 Juried Art winner, ceramic exhibit in Trelfa
  - Minimalist approach to the exhibit, no labels for the work
  - I worked with interns to paint all the display cubes black for this exhibit
    - The small number of pottery pieces needed larger stands to fill the room
- Drop off Agricultural equipment panels for Tractor Club Show with Matt’s help
  - Matt picked up the panels at the end of the Tractor show
  - Put away back into Furniture storage until next year or possible presentation

### Exhibits Layout Schedule for 2017

Year	Exhibit Title	Gallery	Jan.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	April	April	May	May	June	June	July	July	Aug.	Aug.	Sept.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.
2017	Juried Art	Wilson	American Printmakers from the Collections : Open Feb. Run through Fall Harvest Day																		Starting Oct. 23rd--Jan. 1, 2017					
	NEMAG Juried Art Winner	Trelfa	Bob & Janet Young						NEMAG: Portals Open Apr.16th--Last Day July 24th						Juried Art Winner Opening Aug. 6th--Down Oct. 22nd?						Community Trees Starting Oct. 23rd--Jan. 1, 2017					
	Season of Lights – Community of Trees																									
	Season of Light	Center	Mary Stewart Adams						WWI Tribute						Judy Dawley Art						Season of Light Décor Starting Oct. 23rd--Jan. 1, 2017					

### Upcoming Exhibits Related:

- No upcoming exhibit openings until August.
- In August, we will host the *2016 Juried art Show winner*, Rose Wojda’s exhibit in the Trelfa Gallery.
- Also in August, we will be hosting *Judy Dawley’s art exhibit* around the Center Gallery.
- This years Juried Art Exhibit has been replaced with *In by a Foot*, a different fundraising attempt.

### Collections report

- We participated in the first of four ArtWalks through downtown Alpena galleries. We were hosted at a satellite location, the Centennial building. Ten of the Salvador Dali prints were shown alongside Judy Dawley's new artwork.
- In addition, we hosted Linda Pletcher as a guest speaker discussing local impacts during WWI
- We also hosted the Wildlife Sanctuary's Artist in Residence as a guest speaker
- Final revisions to the rewrite of the Collections Procedural Manual and Policy guide for the Reaccreditation process.
  - This involved looking through American Alliance of Museums (AAM) & National Park Systems (NPS) collections policies to compare our institutions Procedural Manual & Policy guide.
  - Adding a Scope of Collections section
  - Refining the Native American Graves & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) policy
- Cleaning up cold storage areas by taking time to put away accrued materials.
  - This also involved;
    - basic dusting
    - bug hunting
    - sweeping of the floors
    - tracking down file information on objects
- Fine Art Room A and B
  - Artwork that has been temporarily stored has been put away. The space was dusted and swept.
- There was a Collections Committee meeting on June 28th at 1 p.m. Time was spent prepping for this Collections Committee meeting.
  - Report attached below.
- Summer interns started the project of completing the data entry for the Education collection files
- In Center storage
  - Inventory & location listings into Collective Access have been updated

### To Do List:

- **Textile storage** needs to be addressed.
  - In 2015 we overhauled the underutilized oversize fine art storage space and designated it to be the textile storage area.
  - This space is one of the last storage rooms to be addressed in terms of being overhauled.
  - I am looking to purchase some storage containers for the garments.
    - I am researching what is best for our budget and the materials we will be storing.
- **The Resource** room (formerly the Phil Park Library) is still a work in progress.
  - We are aspiring to make this space a resource room for local historians, genealogists and even museum staff.
  - The space still needs clear organization.
  - With the help of three amazing volunteers we could trim down our library collection and refine the organization of materials. There is now a system in place to help researchers find books based on topics. We are also utilizing a library software program so we can easily search the books in the resource library.
  - The space still bears evidence of the rooms original use, which was the history of Besser Room. Some of the text from the previous exhibit is still visible on the walls and the carpet has an enormous hole in the middle of the room. For many years, this room was utilized as a catch-all storage area. We have come a long way in terms of our reclamation of the space.
- **Furniture storage**
  - we need to place protective sheeting over the objects to help prevent the accumulation of dust
    - Primarily to protect the furniture objects in case the fire suppression system is triggered.
- **Center Storage Entry**
  - The inventory in this space could be double checked
    - Things have moved since the last inventory check
    - Materials have been added to this space and haven't been disseminated to their homes

- Basic coverings need to be placed over objects
- **Center Storage**
  - Inventory hasn't been officially completed in this space
    - Each time inventory has been completed more material gets added or removed from this space
- **Storage Room D**
  - Inventory hasn't been officially completed in this space.
  - An in-situ inventory has been completed but needs to be formatted digitally & double checked

August 21st, 2017

Dear Collections Committee;

This month our Collections Committee meeting has been scheduled for 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30th. At this month's meeting we will be reviewing a list of items proposed for accession into

permanent and education collections. If you have any questions before our meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Danyeal Dorr,  
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### **Proposed list for Accession into Permanent Collections:**

One cash register removed from the Jos. S. Zolnierек general store. This cash register has a broken marble front but is otherwise in fair condition. Accompanying this cash register is the bill holder from the Zolnierек store. Coming from a prominent local business both objects would be a good fit for the museum's permanent collections. Donated by Ms. L. King, Alpena, MI.

One 8.5"x11" paperbound booklet petitioning the State Board of Education and the State Governor for a State Normal School in Alpena, circa 1925.

One fold out brochure from the East Michigan Tourist Association. This brochure predates the designation of US-23.

Seven black and white photos of operations at a quarry. The donor's grandfather lived on Ford Street in Alpena close to the quarry works where he took the aforementioned photos. Donated by Mr. & Mrs. G. Pilarski, Alpena, MI.

### **Proposed list for Education/Exhibits:**

We have a list of 44 taxidermy mounts created by Elizabeth "Betsy" Willis. Betsy was a long time supporter of the Besser Museum by assisting with art projects, murals, and lending the museum her taxidermy work. Betsy passed away in February of 2017 and her family would like the mounts Betsy loaned to the Besser Museum to be donated to the museum. All of the taxidermy pieces are full mounts. The 44 mounts are listed below: American Crow, American woodcock (adult & juvenile), Baikal teal (male & female), Barred owl, Black Squirrel, Brazilian teal, Cardinal, Caracal, Cinnamon bear, Coyote, Falcated duck, Guinea fowl (male & female), Harlequin drake, Horned grebe, Lady Amherst's pheasants (male & female), Mandarin ducks (male & female), Northern shoveler ducks (male & female), Peacock (male & female), Pheasants (two male & two female), Pileated woodpecker (male and female), Porcupine (juvenile), Raccoon, Raccoon (albino), Red fox, Ring-tailed pheasant (two male & two female), Ring-necked duck, Ruddy duck (three total), and a Yellow-shafted flicker. Donated by Dr. R. Willis.

### **Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan Collection Committee Meeting Minutes**

August 30th, 2017

**Members Present:** Chris Christopherson, Claudia Chapman, Richard Clute & Mike Phillips.

**Members Absent:** Bob Lyngos.

**Members Tardy:** Dennis Bodem

## **Agenda**

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Collections Report- D. Dorr

The Collections Committee reviewed a list of items that have been suggested for accession into the Museum's permanent collections and a list of proposed items for education/exhibits material.

**Motion** to approve the accession of the cash register used at some point in time at the Jos. S. Zolnierik Store into permanent collections (Chapman) Seconded (Christopherson, Clute, Bodem, Phillips). M. Phillips brought in a brief biography for Jos. S. Zolnierik written by Mr. Zolnierik's wife. I made copies of the document and shared them with each member of the committee.

**Motion** to approve the accession of the petition booklet requesting a normal school in Alpena County and one East Michigan Tourist Association map of Michigan (Christopherson) Seconded (Chapman, Bodem, Clute, Phillips).

**Motion** to accept seven photos of the Huron Portland Cement Company. None of the photos are labeled. Donor's grandfather took photos while living on the Northside of Alpena. Dates unknown. (Christopherson) Seconded (Chapman, Bodem, Clute, Phillips).

**Motion** to approve the accession of the 44 taxidermy mounts created by Elizabeth "Betsy" Willis into the education/exhibits collections with the restriction of the mounts be for exhibit purpose only and not for educational hands-on type activities (Phillips) Seconded (Bodem, Chapman, Christopherson, Clute).

**Motion** to Adjourn at 2:05p.m. (Dorr); seconded (Bodem.)

Upcoming Meetings: September 27th @ 1 p.m.