

Working Title: Our Great Outdoors (Timelines/Seasonal Aspects/Chronology)

POTENTIAL EXHIBIT CONTENT/THEMES

Early American Artifacts (Tim Kent's collection)

- Early colonial America - French, British
- Integration of artifacts with taxidermy, etc.

Taxidermy

- Diorama vs static displays (pros and cons)
- How can taxidermy be arranged within a diorama(s) setting on a seasonal and habitat basis?
- Integration of taxidermy with woodlands examples (see immediately below)

Herbarium Collection and Woodlands

- Cull the herbarium collection to Michigan-based plants
- Arrange/group according to habitat
 - o wetland versus uplands
 - o woody versus herbaceous
- Potential kid-friendly roots of a tree
- Creating logs kids can climb through that also serve as benches for visitors
- Tree anatomy: bark that can be opened to show the parts of the tree and how it functions
 - o Life cycle of the forest
- One focus could be the maple tree through the seasons
 - o Maple leaf colors changes
 - o Maple sugaring process
 - sap collection, sugar house, bottling

Fisheries Exhibit

- Invasives versus native species
 - o Opening of St. Lawrence Seaway => sea lamprey migration => impact to Great Lakes fishery => lamprey control measures
- How can the lower-level exhibit enhance/complement/integrate with the outdoor fisheries exhibits?
- How can the fish exhibit better depict the
 - o aquatic food web
 - o different zones in the lake
 - o fish habitats

Michigan and Regional maps

- Wall murals as backdrop for existing framed antique maps
- Add text to highlight some of the important map makers
- Re-examine archived maps for potential display

Foucault Pendulum

- More effectively show how this demonstrates the earth's rotation
- The plane of the pendulum's swing appears to gradually change (i.e., rotate over 24-hour period)
- How does latitude and pendulum length impact the pendulum plane rotation effect and rate? Etc.,
- The pendulum as timekeeper/metronome
- Integrate the pendulum into the general theme of seasons (time), etc.
 - o Create exhibit panels for each of the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Equinox with images of the tilt of the earth in relation to the sun during that season, around the pendulum.

CONCEPT & OVERSIGHT

Subject Matter Experts – Meet with this group to agree on the science of what we want to do

- Fisheries (overlap with outdoor exhibits)
- Forestry
- Wildlife/Conservation

Exhibit Committee members – to be formed after the above SME input

- Board Members
- Teachers, etc. (to help align with Michigan Teaching Curriculum Requirements/Standards)
- Others

Split Rock Studio

- Design the conceptual layout
- The design will follow the same criteria as the Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit to create an interactive, immersive exhibit experience for visitors of all ages.