

THE HAMMER MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT

2010

The museum completed its ninth season this year. Visitor numbers were about the same as last year, even though cruise ship traffic was down by a third. Fortunately, independent travelers made up for the weaker cruise ship numbers. We had approximately 3840 visitors. One quarter of the visitors were with Rainbow Glacier Adventure tours.

The museum director, Dave Pahl, did some minor remodeling of the museum before it opened this year. He replaced the 8' display case with a 6' display case, making it easier to move between rooms. He also completed several new displays. The new displays include: 10 ways to NOT hit your fingers, Musical Hammers, and the Inventors Spotlight. We are currently featuring inventor Juan Carlos Fraga's newly patented magnetic hammers. Dave also built and installed a new outside display, a large wheel bicycle made mainly of hammers.

The museum was in good hands this year with the arrival of intern, Kelly Morton, on May 19th. A museum studies graduate from the University of Santa Barbara, she hit the ground running. She arrived the day of the first cruise ship, and stayed until the end of the season. We were fortunate this year to have two interns. Miranda Traudt arrived on June 7th. She is a graduate student from Syracuse University. Miranda's position was funded by an IMLS grant awarded to and administered by Alaska State Museums. Miranda's task was to catalog the Keathley collection, a collection of approximately 1,000 items which was recently donated to the museum. The collection includes objects, archives, and photos. Miranda photographed, numbered with an assigned accession number, and thoroughly described the object and its condition. She entered all the data into the museum's Past Perfect database.

This was the fourth year of our highly successful intern program. Our first intern, Kathy McCardwell, has returned to Alaska every summer since to volunteer at the state museum in Juneau, then the Sheldon Museum in Haines, and as an intern at the Sheldon this summer. She will be back next year. Last year's intern, Susannah Dowds, is currently the museum educator at the Sheldon Museum. We are happy that not only our museum, but also the community of Haines, has benefitted from this program. We would like to thank the Marks Family Foundation for continuing to fund the intern program since its inception.

The museum continues to be involved in community events. We ran the high striker at Beerfest for the second consecutive year. It is a good fundraiser as we split the proceeds with the Southeast Alaska State Fair. We also run the high striker for the four days of the fair as volunteers with all the proceeds going to the fair. We again ran the nail pounding contest during the 4th of July festivities. There is also a spike driving contest using spikes from the White Pass Railroad in Skagway and authentic spike driving hammers. Gift certificates from the three local hardware stores went to the top contenders. Dave gave a talk on hammers for the Brown Bag lunch series at the Sheldon Museum. We again donated premiums for the local public radio fundraiser, and continue to offer free tours to school and youth groups and kids under 12.

The museum was awarded a state Grant-In-Aid for \$5,000. The grant was for a storage container, either a steel shipping container or a wooden building. A 10'x32' wood frame building is currently being constructed. It can be moved on a trailer.

The museum's web page, www.hammermuseum.org continues to receive approximately 30 hits per day, currently over 54,000 hits. The web page was renovated this year. We are pleased to be able to share the history of hickory handle making through both a slide show and virtual exhibit on our site.

There was an article about the museum in the Beebe Arkansas News, by Doris Ward of Haines. Three articles were written about the connection between the world's first hammer museum (us) and the world's second hammer museum - Linkmenyes, Lithuania. They appeared in Mokslas Technika in Lithuania, Bridges - Lithuanian-American News Journal, and in the March issue of the Museums Alaska magazine, Network. The Sydney Australia Morning Herald wrote an article entitled "Blow by Blow, History at Hand" by Ben Hall. There was also a nice article on the blog, www.jeffreywferguson.com.

Dave was interviewed on a CBC NPR program called "The Answer Man". It was in response to a listeners' question about the use and history of ball pein hammers. The museum continues to respond to inquires from around the world identifying hammers and their uses.

The goals for the coming year are:

- Museum accreditation with the American Association of Museums is still a long range goal.
- Hiring a paid staff position. A paid museum director position is necessary for the continued success of the museum.
- Complete a business plan
- Put together a promotional package to present to potential funders
- Complete a collections policy, which was one of the Museum Assessment Program recommendations



Dave Pahl with 2007 intern, Kathy McCardwell, 2009 intern, Susannah Dowds, and 2010 interns Miranda Traudt and Kelly Morton.