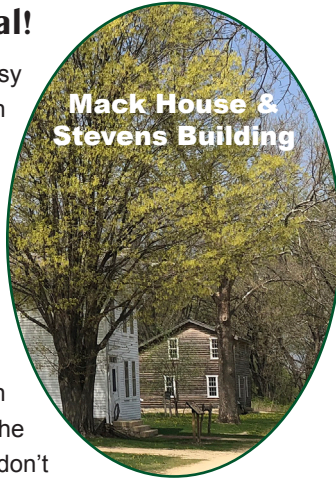


MACKTOWN MONITOR

Hope Springs Eternal!

As Macktown and its woody environs continue to unfold in green splendor, you're invited to visit the grounds, walk by the sparkling rivers, and find the next batch of wildflowers peeking from the leafy soil. Why not bring your kids and grandkids along, or that friend you've been meaning to catch up with? Breathe deeply of the fresh air and for a moment don't think about the C-19 word that

has brought grief and misery to many. Things are getting better, but for Macktown, new county health protocols are not attainable for The Gathering, the wonderful springtime re-enactment of pioneer and Native American life & trading. While hope springs eternal for this springtime event in the next year, Macktowners have not been idle. Read on to see what volunteers have planned and achieved behind the scenes...



Programming is Gearing up for 2021!

Second Sundays got off to a successful start this year! The Atlatl (March 14th) and Blacksmithing (April 11) drew great audiences!

Upcoming Second Sunday events are:

May 9:

A weaving demonstration where you'll be able to try your hand at weaving

June 13:

Joiner / Cabinetmaker demonstration

July 11:

The Gardens at Macktown: Heritage & Native American

August 8:

Cast Iron Cooking

September 12:

Archaeology

Upcoming Saturday Workshops are:

May 8:

Twined Bags of the Great Lakes, with Kelly Schott

Time 11AM -2PM • Members \$25 Non-Members \$30
Silk Ribbon Embroidery Spider Web Rose, with Cathy Grafton
Time 1-4PM • Members \$30 Non-Members \$35

May 22:

Prehistoric Artifact Identification, with Rochelle Lurie
Time 1-4 • No Cost for Members Non-Members \$15

Please check out our website & Facebook page for new events and classes as they are announced! If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for historically accurate programs, contact Connie Gleasman at: rmj5288@gmail.com

Grants Awarded to Macktown!

Ecolab Foundation recently awarded Macktown Living History a \$5,000 grant to create a series of informational and instructional videos. MLH also received a discretionary grant of \$1,000 from Stateline Community Foundation to purchase the software licenses needed to develop virtual education and expand online publicity and marketing. Blackhawk Bank will be partnering with MLH to help accomplish both projects.

We are excited about this opportunity to increase our online profile and to make more of the general public aware of our site's historic significance and what MLH has to offer. Throughout 2021 we will be working with Johannsen Video Productions to create videos highlighting the history of the site, areas of interest such as archaeology and Native American lifeways, tour and field trip opportunities, living history events, and virtual workshops.

Both the Ecolab and Stateline Community Foundations have supported our organization in past years. In 2020 they awarded grants to help MLH conduct a photogrammetry study and fall archaeology dig. The study involved using drone photos and specialized software to map the site and help archaeologists determine the most likely areas to explore in the future.

Thanks to the Ecolab Foundation, Stateline Community Foundation, and Blackhawk Bank for their continued support!

Building & Grounds News

The MLH Education Center had a thorough cleaning. (The assault by ladybug beetles was incredible if assessed by their carcasses!) The pump and plumbing in the building was updated as well, so that restrooms can now be used in winter weather. (YES!) Through the auspices of the Winnebago County Forest



Preserve District, the Education Center deck was also repaired and strengthened as needed, and visitors can safely enjoy the view from the structure.

Crews are working on the interior trim of the Stevens building.

The tavern was cleaned, and new, historically correct objects were added.

The adjacent Whitman store was also cleaned, and canned goods with historically accurate labels were added. Thanks to volunteer

Terry Sorchey for the research!

Notes of Thanks!

Thank you to all our renewing members that responded to our 2021 membership campaign this past February. Your generosity is much appreciated! Welcome to new members:

- Marilyn Moring of Rockton
- Nancy Speck of Rockford
- Don & Linda Sonneson of Machesney Park

Special thanks to our two new Lifetime Heritage Guardian members:

- Lucy Andrignola & family, in memory of her parents, Walter & Betty Pilbin. Lucy is a longtime volunteer at Macktown, and currently serves as the MLH board secretary.
- Eve Kirk, MLH Membership Chair

If you have not renewed your membership, or would just like to donate to Macktown Living History, mail the form printed in this newsletter.

Thanks as always to our print newsletter sponsor, Blackhawk Bank.

Save the Date!

Don't miss our Scotch 4 Ball Golf Tournament on September 24th! There will be games and contests such as:

- The Best Kilt Contest
- The Best Team Wearing Kilts
- The Best Legs - Man and Woman
- The Best Score using Vintage Clubs
- Hole-in-one Contests
- Long Drive using a Whiffle Ball
- Trivia Game about Macktown Golf Course

If you have any questions or need more info about this fun-filled Golf Tournament, please contact:

- Steve Pomahac, 815-624-7000**
- Ray Ferguson 815-489-9500**
- Connie Gleasman, 815-218-3874**
- Chuck Gilbert, 815-289-8951**



Membership Levels

(Please check one)

- Settler** (*Individual*) **\$20**
- Frontier Family** **\$40**
(2 Adults and children)
- Pioneer Trader** **\$100**
(Business membership)
- Heritage Guardian** **\$1,000**
(Lifetime membership)

Except for Heritage Guardian, membership is for one year. Children are those under age 18.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Additional gift to support programming:
\$ _____

TOTAL \$: _____

Make checks payable to Macktown Living History.

Return this form with your payment to:

Macktown Living History
P.O. Box 566 Rockton, IL 61072

Volunteer Opportunities *(check your interests)*

- Program/event assistance
- Archaeology tasks
- Fundraising
- Administration
- Building maintenance
- Cleaning & organizing

Macktown Living History is a Not For Profit 501(c)3 organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.

Macktown Living History is on the National Register of Historic Sites. It contains remnants of both historic and prehistoric cultures, dating back thousands of years. Your support is critical to maintaining this culturally significant site. Thank you!

Macktown Mission Statement

To restore and interpret the lifeways of this historic site through education, research, archaeology, tours, and events.