



May 2014

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The Wisconsin Historical Society Educator Update curates the most current education-related news from the Wisconsin Historical Society and beyond.

Education Services is Moving!

[Kurt Griesemer](#), Director of Education

Welcome to Spring!

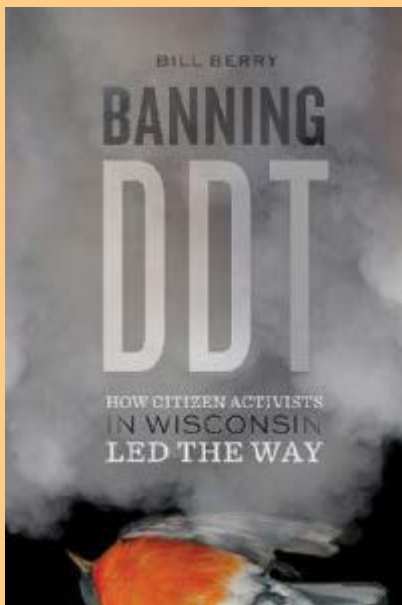
Or so the calendar says. With spring comes growth and change...Education Services is moving under the auspices of the Director of Education at the Wisconsin Historical Museum. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting change!

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Like our new [Facebook page](#) to see highlights and tips for educators. Or follow us on Twitter (@WHSEducation) to see the latest quips and bits!



Banning DDT How Citizen Activists in Wisconsin Led the Way



by Bill Berry

Taking History on the Road

Discover Your Story

As the Wisconsin Historical Society embarks on the "Wisconsin History Tour: Sharing Wisconsin's Stories One Community at a Time," we have hopes to spend time and share stories of the past with communities throughout the state. The "Tour" represents a major, multi-year outreach effort.



For a month-long stay at a time, the Society will bring a handcrafted exhibit to 11 communities in order to share pieces of collections we have gathered since our founding in 1846—ranging from a Civil War soldier's letter home, to early 20th

On a December day in 1968, DDT went on trial in Madison, Wisconsin. In *Banning DDT: How Citizen Activists in Wisconsin Led the Way*, Bill Berry details how the citizens, scientists, reporters, and traditional conservationists drew attention to the harmful effects of "the miracle pesticide" DDT, which was being used to control Dutch elm disease.

Berry tells of the hunters and fishers, bird-watchers, and garden-club ladies like Lorrie Otto, who dropped off twenty-eight dead robins at the Bayside village offices. He tells of university professors and scientists like Joseph Hickey, a professor and researcher in the Department of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, who, years after the fact, wept about the suppression of some of his early DDT research. And he tells of activists like Senator Gaylord Nelson and members of the state's Citizens Natural Resources Association who rallied others to the cause.

The six-month-long DDT hearing was one of the first chapters in citizen activism in the modern environmental era. *Banning DDT* is a compelling story of how citizen activism, science, and law merged in Wisconsin's DDT battles to forge a new way to accomplish public policy. These citizen activists were motivated by the belief that we all deserve a voice on the health of the land and water that sustain us.

Available [now](#) from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press!

Century photographs of Door County, to maps dating back to 1513, to the Racine story of malted milk, to maritime stories of shipwrecks on the Great Lakes.

The statewide trek launches in June in Wausau at the Marathon County Historical Society. Included in the the tour will be five days of activities such as author talks, historic children's crafts, genealogy workshops, and much more. For more information on the Wisconsin History Tour, please visit our [website](#).

Wisconsin Historical Museum

[Jennifer Kolb](#), Museum Director

We Look Forward to Seeing You at the Wisconsin Historical Museum This Spring!

Spring tour season is officially here at the Wisconsin Historical Museum. Whether your school has already come for their visit or is preparing to do so soon, please remember that we recommend scheduling 9-12 months in advance for April and May reservations. To make your 2015 reservation, please call (608) 264-6557 or [email](#) our staff. We are also pleased to provide you with in-person scheduling on the day of your visit.

Join us Friday, May 2 beginning at 5:00pm for [Gallery Night](#), featuring our newest exhibit, "Wisconsin in Watercolor: The Farmscapes of Paul Seifert." Join curator Joe Kapler at 7:00pm for a discussion on the cultural and historic significance of the collection.

Can't make it Friday evening? Joe and doctoral candidate Sarah Anne Stolte will discuss the exhibition Tuesday, May 6 at 12:15pm as part of our [History Sandwiched In](#) series.

National History Day



National History Day in
Wisconsin

[Sarah Fallon](#),

NHD in Wisconsin Coordinator

Last chance to volunteer!
Sign up [online](#) today!

The NHD State Contest held in
Madison is scheduled for
Saturday, May 3, 2014.

Students have completed
exhibits, documentaries,
papers, websites, and
performances in connection
with the 2014 annual theme of
"Rights and Responsibilities in
History."



Painting by Paul Seifert

Celebrate [Wisconsin Museum's Week](#) May 13-17 at the Historical Museum. We're pleased to offer a 10% discount on in-store purchases this week. On Saturday, May 17, enjoy free museum admission as well as a 10-percent discount in the museum store in honor of [International Museum Day](#). Tour four floors of exhibits to learn the stories of native people, settlement days, immigrants' experiences and lively politics of Wisconsin.

New at Old World Wisconsin

[Jennifer Van Haften](#), Curator of Interpretation

New Interactive 1890s Cycling Experience Opens June 2014

Residents of Wisconsin and the nation were crazy about cycling during the 1890s. Beginning this summer, Old World Wisconsin captures the excitement of this decade in its new [Catch Wheel Fever!](#) experience, which will debut the weekend of June 14-15, 2014. The new cycling experience will be open to all guests that visit Old World Wisconsin as one of the many interesting locations to visit there throughout the 2014 season and beyond.

Judges evaluate student projects, briefly interview the 6-12 grade participants, and select those students who will move on to the next level of competition. We also need volunteers who can help in other important roles, see the online sign up for details. We think a wide variety of perspectives from judges allows students to get the best quality feedback for improving their work, so please forward this to any friends, family, or colleagues who may have an interest in attending.

We are always in need of judges/volunteers to have the event run smoothly. For the state contest we require upwards of 150 judges/volunteers to accommodate the over 650 students in attendance.

Sign up to volunteer online!

Please contact [Sarah Fallon](#) with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!



Children and adults can hop aboard replica tricycles and bicycles from the era and take a spin around the track; there is a size and style that allows everyone to join the fun. Guests will get to tinker at the workbench in a simulated 1890s bicycle repair shop, explore copies of period road maps for cyclists, examine an original 1890s "safety bicycle" manufactured in Kenosha and hear late 19th century bicycle songs.

Cyclists young and old can learn about the Badger Wheelmen, a Milwaukee cycling club, put on period apparel, climb aboard a replica high-wheel bike and take a one-of-a-kind photo to share with family and friends. Regular museum admission includes a stop at Catch Wheel Fever!; there is no additional charge to visit this new experience.

Catch Wheel Fever! was made possible in part by a generous lead grant from the Sally Mead Hands Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Old World Foundation.

Ride with The Wheelmen Saturday, July 19

A special ten-mile ride with this antique bicycling enthusiast group will take place in and around Old World Wisconsin, and will include lunch and a guided ride. Guests register ahead and should bring their own bicycles.

Details for all Catch Wheel Fever! events will be available on our [events calendar](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Sincerely,

[Kurt Griesemer](#)
Director of Education

Wisconsin Historical Society

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Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846