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In This Issue

[An Interview With...](#)

[Yours in Education](#)

[#tweetinghistory](#)

[Blue Men and River
Monsters](#)

[The Museum on the
Square](#)

[Wisconsin History Tour](#)

The Wisconsin Historical Society Educator Update curates news from the Wisconsin Historical Society and beyond for the community of educators in Wisconsin.

Yours in Education

[Kurt Griesemer](#), Director of Education

Your Voice Counts!



Do you use our 4th grade textbook? The Wisconsin Historical Society is currently developing a 2nd edition of its groundbreaking state history textbook for the 4th grade, Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story, currently used by nearly 40,000 students across the state. In response to teacher feedback, we are adjusting the text to make the reading level more grade appropriate. We're also seeking feedback on vocabulary presentation and other literacy conventions.

Please take a few minutes to respond to

our [6 question survey](#).

Like Us on Facebook or Follow Us on Twitter

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



An Interview with
Katie Schumacher,
head of programming
for the Wisconsin
Historical Museum



*Tell us a bit about
yourself*

My name is Katie Schumacher and I am the Special Events and Programs Coordinator at the Wisconsin Historical Museum. I am

Social Media of the Past: #tweetinghistory

Looking for a way to engage your social media savvy students and broaden their understanding of history? Need a fresh way to discover historical content? Are your students having trouble summarizing their ideas? Use aspects of social media to combine media literacy and disciplinary thinking with the [Tweeting History](#) lesson from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Suitable for any grade level 4-12, tweets can be presented in-class, on actual media sites, or internally through services such as Edmodo.

responsible for many of the lectures, dinners, exhibit openings, educational workshops, demonstrations, musical and stage performances, receptions, third party rentals, hands-on craft activities and the museum's participation in community events.

Outside of my work at the museum, I enjoy reading, playing soccer, and practicing my rusty French skills.

What do you like best about your job?

Days are never boring and are never the same! In planning programs and lectures, I get to meet experts from across the state, and every event is a new opportunity to learn something about Wisconsin that I didn't know before. I also get to interact with guests and create lasting relationships with visitors. Knowing that a guest had a wonderful time and was able to take something away from a program that I planned is extremely rewarding.

What are some recent events?

In January, the museum held a series of four Saturday drop-in activities titled "Cure Cabin Fever: The Lumberjack Life." Each Saturday looked at a different aspect of the lumberjack experience



E. Heiden Senior

Short track speed skating looked very different in 1898. #iceisce #tweetinghistory



New from the Press!

Blue Men and River Monsters

The north is a treasure trove of folklore. From magical creatures of the old country to legends of the mysterious and macabre, this lore is a record of the stories people held on to and the customs, foods, and cures that filled their lives. Collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Program, a Depression-era works project, these

and provided a new thing for kids to do - from creating a Paul Bunyan beard out of felt to eating a flapjack in a lumber camp mess hall to creating a musical instrument to play during a toe-tapping fiddle and drum performance.

Tell us about your favorite event.

One of my favorite programs that I've been a part of at the museum was a Taste Traditions of Wisconsin on the history of Great Lakes surfing.

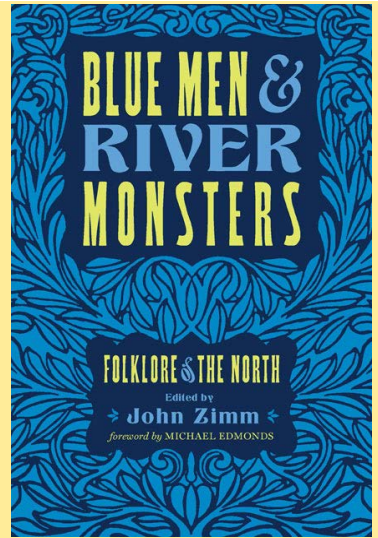
Taste Traditions is a dinner and lecture series that combines history with a delicious themed meal. For this program, there was surf and turf menu paired with an entertaining presentation by Lee and Larry Williams, twin brothers who started the world's largest gathering freshwater surfers, the Dairyland Surf Classic of Sheboygan. It was easy to see why people consider Sheboygan the "Malibu of the Midwest" after this program!

What's next?

The programming this spring and fall is going to focus a lot on

are the stories of Norwegian and Swiss immigrants, Native American medicine men and storytellers, and pioneers with memories of the earliest days of settlement in the Old Northwest.

Available from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press!



Edited by John Zimm

The Museum on the Square



Travel through 130 years of Wisconsin cycling history in the new exhibition *Shifting Gears: A Cyclical History of Badger Bicycling*. Showcasing the crucial role that Wisconsin has played in two national bicycling eras, *Shifting Gears* features historic bicycles and objects, intriguing images, and interactive experiences. Discover how the long, colorful, and sometimes contentious story of the growth and development of cycling in Wisconsin in the late 1800s is once again playing out today.

Shifting Gears is developed in partnership with the History Museum at the Castle in Appleton, Wisconsin. Looking for a great companion book? Check

bicycling history to pair with the museum's exhibition "Shifting Gears: A Cyclical History of Badger Bicycling." I'm really looking forward to the lectures, activities for kids, and bike rides that are in the works!

Visit the Wisconsin Historical Museum [online!](#)

out "["Wheel Fever"](#)" from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. For more information on the dates and times of the exhibit, please visit our [website](#).

The Wisconsin History Tour

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.



During the stay the Society will bring a handcrafted exhibit 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 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 is currently in [Neville Public Museum](#). For more information on the Wisconsin History Tour, please visit our [website](#).

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Sincerely,

[Kurt Griesemer](#)

Director of Education
Wisconsin Historical Society