



# Tuber Times

## Plant Projects

As we work on creating the museum, we have invested in some small table top green house kits meant for children. We had mixed results. The two main marketing names associated with the kits were Veggie Tales and Disney.

The Disney Kits were easy to use and very successful. The other kits were not as successful. We fol-

lowed the kits instructions and did not make any changes to the materials provided.

The Disney Kit had lush leafy seedlings in each compartment. The other kit had spindly growth and was very difficult to remove the plants once it was time to transplant them. We still would try either kit as they did pro-

vide a good experience for planting small seeds. The prices are reasonable for each kit.



Disney Flower Grow Kit

## Semi Precious Gemstones

With the kindest of offers, we have a small collection of semi precious gemstones for the museum. These lovely editions are carefully

cut in a number of styles.

The stones range from being peridot, garnet, amethyst, small emerald and other delightful examples of what

you are able to do with crystals.

Of course, we are looking for other rocks and minerals to add to a section of the museum. Some-

### Inside this issue:

Gemstones	2
Continued	
Sea Monkey	2
Tank Expansion	
Introducing our	2
Board Member	
Jacob	
The State Horse	3
Meet the Staff	3
Summer Project	3

### Special points of interest:

- Board Member Introduction
- Sea Monkeys
- Plant Projects

## Gemstones continued

times items are given to the museum; however, we are more than capable to go searching for what we need. Getting dirty is not a problem when you are looking for examples of minerals or perhaps ore.

North Idaho has been an area with many mines that are hard rock mines. Silver, lead, zinc,

copper, aluminum and gold are a few of the metals found in this region. Along with these there are of course crystals and other wonderful geological examples of the world around us.

An upcoming field trip is being planned to see more rocks and minerals along with how they are formed. A date has not been decided as of yet as the planning

does take some time.

## Sea Monkey Tank Expansion

The Sea Monkeys seem to be a favorite subject of the museum and our fans. There was quite a bit of math in doing this so we thought this information should be shared.

The standard Sea Monkey container requires one and 1/4 cups of water and one packet of specialized water treatment. To put together a 1 gallon tank you must figure out how much water and how many packets of treatment you

need. One gallon is 16 cups. The original tank had 3 inches by 6 inches by 3 and 1/4 inches of water. This equaled 58.5 cubic inches of water. One gallon is 231 cubic inches. Subtracting the water already in the tank from what was needed left 172.5 cubic inches. Then we convert the cubic inches into cups needed. One cup equals 14.4375 cubic inches. It would take 11.9 cups to equal a gallon with the water we already had.

Your turn to calculate the amount of packets we had to purchase. If you go to our page on Face Book you will see the answer.

Sea Monkey  
Mathematics

## Introducing our Board Member Jacob

Jacob is a special member of our Museum Board. He has high functional autism, ADD and as well as other aspects of his life that he overcomes daily. He brings to our board meetings lengthy discussions about different topics that fascinate him but are not always able to implement in a museum.

He is excited about the museum and can not wait for it to have its own building.

Currently, Jacob is trying out photography as a method of showing how he perceives the world. The creative word choices he brings to the table have brought the term "computarium" a common part of our word usage. For those who do not know what this word means,

it is a place where you are able to work using a computer for any project.

Computarium



## The Idaho Horse

In 1975 the State of Idaho designated the Appaloosa horse to be the state horse. The Appaloosa is native to the region and is the result of selective breeding practices by the Nez Perce Native Americans. Some people think the original breeding stock came from Spain, while others believe it came from Russia. Either way, everyone agrees the Appaloosa is a very beautiful horse. Appaloosas can be identified by their spotted coat patterns that actually appear in a wide range of forms. The most noticeable is what is called a "blanket",



State of Idaho

which is a white area over the hip that has spots of the same color as the main color of the horse. The main color can be bay, black, chestnut, palomino, buckskin, dun and grulla (a

smoky grey color), among others. Idaho is one of only ten states that have an official state horse, and Idaho drivers can get a license plate with this wonderful native horse on it.

## Meet the Staff

Erin Keuter Laughlin is the founder, treasurer, and President of the Board of the Spectacular Spud Museum. She found Mr. Potato Head while doing speech therapy as a child in a school group, where she was only allowed to put the particular pieces on when she could pronounce them correctly. She asked for a Mr. Potato Head for Christmas several years in a row, but one never appeared under the tree. In her words she envisioned the museum based on "toy envy". Everyone wants a toy they can

not have but it is still fun to see them on the shelf. Erin's vision for the museum includes not only the display of the famous tuber, but other toys as well. The displays will contain other funny face toys (toys whose facial features can be arranged as one likes), but other toys and collectibles as well. Her intent for the museum is to provide educational experiences for children and, eventually, become an educational resource for the area.

Erin lives with her loving husband, autistic son, and a small but adoring band of (semi-) domesticated felines.

"Toy Envy" helped inspire the museum.

## Summer Project

Actually, we decided to interact with people following our group on facebook. A vote was requested for the summer project. The options were the butterfly grow kit or the praying mantis kit. The praying mantis won by a 2 to 1 vote.

This will be an interesting project to set up and we look forward to sharing the results with you on the Museum website

as well as the more current facebook posts.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the vote. Please be assured that the butterfly project has not been removed from the project list but will be next years dedicated project.



Todd and Jacob

## **Spectacular Spud Museum, Inc.**

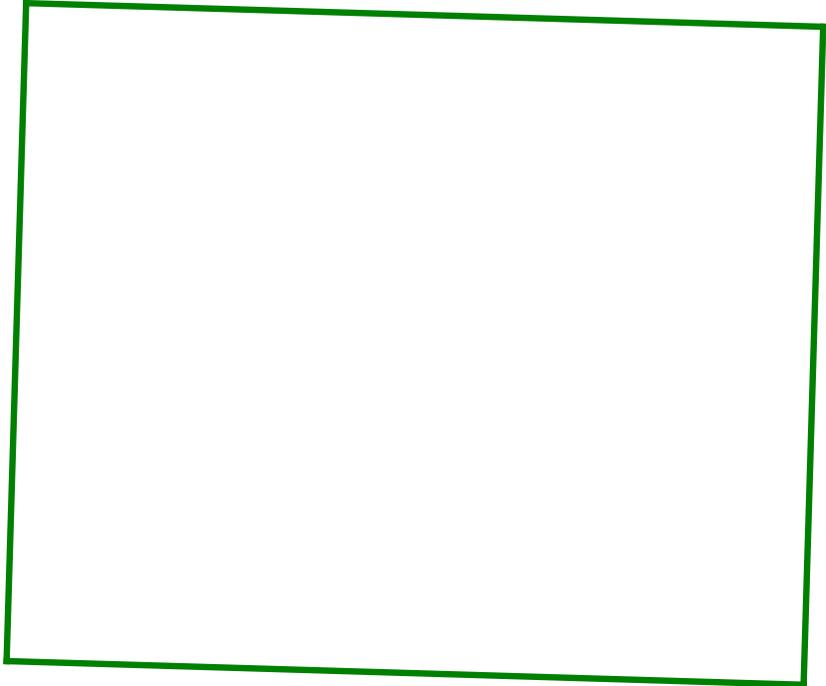
PO Box 3920  
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83816-3920

[www.spectacularspudmuseum.com](http://www.spectacularspudmuseum.com)

Phone: 208-699-3408

Email:  
[admin@spectacularspudmuseum.com](mailto:admin@spectacularspudmuseum.com)

**A child's education is not  
small potatoes.**



## **Spectacular Spud Museum**

### **Spokes Spud Corner**

Winter has been a very long season this year. It is still snowing off and on and we are almost to May. Despite it all, an indoor green house was acquired so we could still have our plant projects.

There have been plants starting from seedlings and the carnivorous plants have their new home. It has been very successful so far this year.

The Sea Monkeys are happy little shrimp in their new home. The population explosion in the tank happened very fast and there will be pictures online soon.

As far as I go, I have my own Face Book page. It has been so exciting. Friends came out of the woodwork to

visit my page and the museum page. Since it takes a while to update the actual museum website, we decided that for many projects, the pictures would be posted on Face Book first and then adaptations for the website would be done.

Please keep in touch, I love your e-mails and suggestions!



**Sea Monkey tank prior to the upgrade**