



Tuber Times

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Spectacular Spud Museum, Inc.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

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Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is located in southwest Idaho along a 50 mile long volcanic rift zone called the Great Rift. Over the last 15,000 years lava has broken through the surface around 8 times and created about 60 lava

flows and 25 volcano cones. Some of the coolest features are the lava tubes; tunnels created by hot lava flowing through cooler, older lava. The lava cools from the outside to the inside and creates a tunnel, which the hot lava runs out of the end. Some of



Lava Formation

the tubes run for hundreds of feet and are big enough to walk through!

We were there 6/08/2013.

Special points of interest:

- * Fundraising for a Museum Site
- * A New Board Member
- * New Administrative Office
- * Interview with One of Our Founding Members

Opal Mountain Mine in Spencer, Idaho

Idaho is known as the gem state. Most of the time the word garnet is spoken as it is our state gem stone. However, in a portion of our state there are opals. Enough opals to declare Spencer, ID the Opal Capital of the United States.

On our trip we stopped in at the Opal Mountain Mine, Inc. gift shop and spoke to the owners of the mine. We admired their finished jewelry and raw opal for sale. Of course, we picked some up for our museum display and have the

intent to go to the mine again to acquire more information about this precious gemstone. Bob and Susan Thompson are friendly and happy to share their knowledge. If you are headed that direction, please visit them.

A Founding Member, Paul Morton

One of our founding members is Paul Morton. His support of the museum has been crucial over the years. As a community artisan, who works with chain mail and smithing swords, he has created and assortment of items.

Working with iron that may be at temperatures of 2000-3000 degrees is a challenge



Paul Morton
Founding Member

and takes great skill. With 10 years of hard work, he has earned recognition of his skills.

One of Paul's favorite creations is Sir Spudsolot. The chain mail this potato head wears was an endeavor that is part of the custom spud collection.

As a cliché assortment of information and questions, Paul did let us know that his favorite animals were wolves

and tigers. Pizza is a favored meal and summer is the season of choice.

As part of our museum interactive projects, we hope to have some live demonstration of making chain link items. Maybe, we will even be able to have a forge set up as a special event for a demonstration. This community involvement for education is important to the museum and we invite others to share their skills with us as well.

We have other membership options available so please inquire.

The Potato Museum of Blackfoot, Idaho

While traveling on a field trip this summer, we stopped at the Potato Museum in Blackfoot, Idaho. This museum has information regarding potatoes, their history and how the potato is an important crop in Idaho.

This displays are very informative and fun. Everything from planting and harvesting equipment, songs, potato heads, clothing made from potato

sacks, and nutritional facts are gathered in old railroad station for viewing. Every time a train went by you could feel the building rumble and the whirring of the diesel locomotives

"Every time a train went by you could feel the building rumble and the whirring of the diesel locomotives..."

moving along the tracks.

The building itself has historical prominence as well that maintains its identity amongst the displays.

The gift shop was fabulous with potato "this and that's" throughout the shop. We did shop there and picked up some nice items for our displays that we are looking forward to share with our community.

Reorganization of the Board of Directors

We had some changes this year. As part of the application for our 501(c)3 status we have added another board member and changed some positions. Todd Laughlin is now President and Secretary, Russell Merriman is the new Vice President and Erin Keuter Laughlin is the Treasurer. Jacob remains as a board member.

To assist with running the day to day operations, the non-paying posi-

tion of administrator was defined in our meeting. There are many day to day tasks that must be addressed and handled on the spot and waiting for a board meeting for each essential decision was no longer practical.

Currently, we are looking to add another board member to make it a total of five members. If you are interested, please send a resume so we are able to review the application.



**One of our mottos is
"Reading, Writing and
Russets"**

Growing Potatoes

How do you grow a potato? It is surprisingly easy. First get a potato from your local store. Now take a closer look at that potato. Each of those little bumps that are called eyes are where a root may form.

Some times farmers cut up the potatoes into seed potatoes, but I prefer to plant the whole as there is less bacteria that my stunt the growth.

Planting your potato is easy. Having dirt ready is a must. I have planted tiny potatoes in a flower pot with good results. For a larger crop and bigger

potatoes, you may take a tire and fill it with dirt. As the plant grows add another tire and more dirt and so forth. When you are ready to harvest, remove the stacked tires placing potatoes in one place and the dirt in a wheelbarrow. You are able to use the same method with pots, mounds of dirt, boards or any number of items.

This year we used a potato bag from a gardening center to see how it worked. Our plants looked lovely but we have not harvested them as of yet as it started to rain then quickly froze. We will check on the potatoes soon.



This is our potato planting using a "potato bag" that seems to work nicely.

The Move

This year there was a relocation of the museum project facilities. The entire project room had to be taken down and re-assembled at the new site.

With this happening some projects and intended field trips will be delayed until 2014 or 2015 to make sure funding is in place. It is very critical that the aquariums and plants are

taken care of first and then new projects may be started.

Currently , by appointment only, we are able to have guests visit the main project room. We were not able to facilitate this in the past due to the small room the projects were located.

There are a few display items for viewing as well. As the museum progresses, it will have its own location

and hours. We know this is important and we are striving to meet that goal for our community.

Thank you for your support.

Currently, by appointment only, we are able to have guests visit the main project room.

Moving forward ... a building is needed

This is the year we need to focus on having a building. Due to the government shut down our paperwork is stuck in review with countless other organizations. We must move forward and do not have time to wait.

A place for the museum will cost money so we need to raise it. We will be offering advertisement on our website that will go toward



We have wonderful items for display that are waiting for a building they may call home.

the building fund. A separate bank account has already been in place for this to happen. Please be prepared as we ask for donations to get this moving in the right direction. Every one we have discussed this project about agrees that we need more for

the children in our community and are excited about the prospects of a children's museum.

Whether you can spare going without a mocha from the coffee stand for a day, have a few pennies in your pocket, or wish to buy advertisements or be a member or sponsor, we need your help starting 2014.

Spectacular Spud Museum, Inc.

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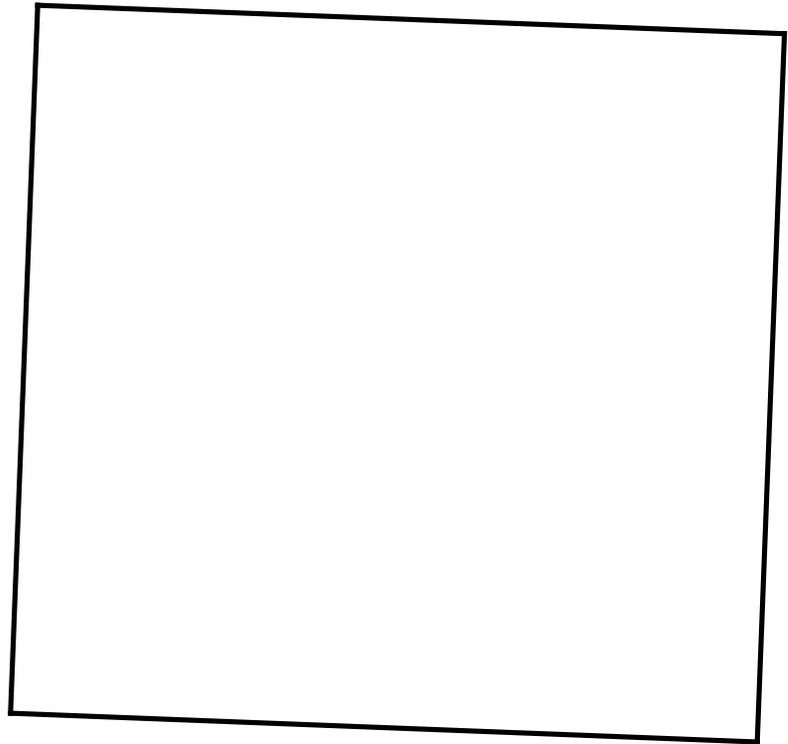
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A child's education is not small
potatoes.

Spectacular Spud Museum



Spokes Spud Corner

This has been quite a year. We moved, submitted our application for 501(c)3 status, released lady bugs and are researching why Idaho is 49th in the realm of education standards for our country.

2013 is the first year for a museum picnic and we are planning to have one yearly for our members. It is very exciting as we grow with our community.

For the year 2013 we were focused on measurement and items that involved measurement. As part of this wonder-

ful event, we acquired some wonderful antiques and tools that will be part of displays in the future.

Our travels took us to southern Idaho to discover The Potato Museum as well as geol-



Spencer Idaho Opals

ogy in the area. The Gem State earned its name by having garnets, opals and sun stones. We have samples of each to show our state's wonderful diversity.

For the year 2014 the key word is solar. Keep an eye out for new projects, demonstrations and fun involving solar interaction.

This next year we will only have an end of year summary newsletter. Our focus needs to be on acquiring a place for the museum.