BELTON AREA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

MUSEUM MUSINGS

September 2017

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

AUGUST 21, 2017

On August 21, about 1000 people converged on downtown Belton to view the total solar eclipse. The museum had visitors from Maryland, Virginia, Atlanta, North Carolina, and even Spain and the Netherlands. Most visitors chose Belton because they wanted a smaller town in the direct line of totality. Some came here because weather conditions elsewhere were not predicted to be as favorable. And, they all loved the Southern hospitability they found here.

Photo credit Steven Faucette

At the museum, visitors had an opportunity to make an eclipse viewing box, as an alternative way to watch the eclipse besides using eclipse glasses. They enjoyed the *Air, Wind, and Space* exhibit and the space themed music piped outside the building. There were also corn hole games set up for people to play while they waited for the big event. The museum sold Moon Pies and RC Colas to the crowd, some of whom had never tasted either of these Southern treats.

By 2:30 everyone was outside, standing around the museum, outside the library, and the Belton Center for the Arts. The clouds that were in the sky all stayed along the horizon, keeping the view of the sun clear. When totality started, cheering and applause rose up all around the square. Although street lights did turn on, it did not affect the amazing show in the sky. The city had also turned on the star at the top of the Standpipe for the day, so it glowed majestically over the daytime darkness scene. And, yes, the crickets did start their nightly chirping in the middle of the afternoon.

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Our summer exhibit opened on Sunday, July 23. The exhibit, *Air, Wind, and Space*, sponsored by the Webbcraft Family Foundation, Timken, Anderson County ATAX, City of Belton HTAX, and the Hart-Oeland Foundation, presents everything from airplanes to space craft, from meteorological instruments to meteorites, from windmills to space-age tools.

During the opening, visitors had an opportunity to learn about humans in space aboard the International Space Station, thanks to an informative talk with a NASA educational specialist. She showed us videos of how astronauts eat, shower and even sleep in space. Members of the Honea Path Flying Club were also on hand to tell stories about their flying exploits.

The exhibit includes a hot air balloon gondola, or basket. Visitors can climb in and imagine a gentle flight above the trees. There is communication equipment from planes, as well as navigational maps for pilots, and even a wooden airplane propeller. The display also includes a bag used on the International Space Station by Frank Culbertson, a South Carolina native.

Interactive activities abound. Feel the high velocity parachute fabric made at Belton Industries and then view a short video clip of an humanitarian air drop using the fabric. A children's play area includes an aircraft carrier with all types of planes that can land on the deck. Kids and adults alike can pretend to be an astronaut with our dress-up astronaut costume. Everyone is invited to make a star constellation projector.

Be sure to stop by to see the exhibit before it flies away on September 9.

You're Invited to Attend Genealogy Gems, Program 1, Sept. 21

The Belton Area Museum Association is excited to announce the start of a new series of genealogy programs at the museum. Programs have been scheduled for September 21 and November 16, with two more in the works for next spring.

On Thursday, September 21, at 7 PM, BAMA will be hosting a genealogy program featuring Elinor Mowbry. Ms. Mowbry has published the book, *O'Lordy: A Story of One Family's Trials During the Struggle for Southern Independence As Told Through the Letters of Private Young H.E. Hitch of the 16th South Carolina Infantry.* Ms. Mowbry found the letters in the attic of her family home, forgotten for over hundred years.

This program and three future ones will be free to all BAMA members at the $100 Patron level and above. Cost for all others to attend is $5 each session. Members are welcome to increase their current member level to become a Patron and enjoy this additional benefit of four yearly genealogical and historical presentations.

Amazon Smile

The museum now has a simple way for you to help the museum raise funds while you shop on Amazon. Go to smile.amazon.com. From the list of organizations to support, choose Belton Area Museum Association. Log in to Amazon with your user name and password. Then enjoy your shopping. Amazon will automatically give 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the museum every time you go to Amazon Smile before shopping.

Thanks to the Honea Path Girl Scout Troop #1194 for their hard work cleaning the grounds of the depot for the eclipse. They trimmed bushes, weeded beds, and hauled debris with the help of board members Jimmy Ouzts, Alison Darby, parent volunteer Marshall Culpepper, and troop leader Amanda Crawford.

Upcoming Exhibit - Call for Artifacts

The next exhibit at the museum will be *Fins, Feathers, Claws, and Paws: Living with Creatures.* The museum is looking for artifacts dealing with the connection of pets and their owners. Photographs, memorabilia, vintage pet equipment, vintage hunting and retrieving dog items, and artifacts dealing with working animals are needed. Artifacts about unusual pets and their care would be a great addition.

Artifacts should be brought to the museum September 13-20, during museum hours: Wednesday-Friday 9-2, Saturday 9-1. Artifacts will be on display through December 16.

Please join us for the exhibit opening on September 24, from 3-5 PM. There will be family-friendly activities for humans and their pets, including seminars, exotic pet experience with Doris Lannon of Living Collection Animals, and a pet parade and costume contest with lots of prizes!!!

Summer Camps—Wild Weather and Astronauts Invade the Depot

On July 25-27, BAMA hosted Wild Weather Camp. Campers made clouds, tornados in a jar, and got to eat s'mores made in a solar oven. They got to see how rain fell from clouds and made 3D raindrops. Every day the campers recorded the temperature and weather conditions outside. Everyone made barometers and anemometers to take home to continue studying weather. John Cessarich, from Channel 4, came and spoke to the campers about being a meteorologist, as well as his experiences as a storm chaser.

Space Camp was held August 1-3. The future astronauts learned about the planets, made star constellation projectors, and eclipse viewing boxes. They learned about the phases of the moon using Oreos. An astronomer from Clemson University came and talked to the campers about the size of the galaxy, sharing that if the sun was the size of a grapefruit, Earth would be the size of a grain of sand and the nearest star would be as far away as California. Everyone learned how astronauts on the International Space Station perform everyday tasks like brushing their teeth and eating. The campers enjoyed drinking Tang and eating applesauce through a straw, as well as sampling astronaut ice cream.

We give a special thank you to Webbcraft Family Foundation for sponsoring both camps.

Wild Weather campers recording weather conditions outside the museum. They started their morning looking at the clouds and drawing and labeling the types of clouds they saw. Campers also recorded the temperature using an outdoor thermometer.

Weather Camper James Horton helps check on the s'mores in the solar ovens. An oven thermometer placed in one of the boxes recorded temperatures of 150-175F inside the pizza box oven, just sitting outside in the sun.

Channel 4 meteorologist John Cessarich shared stories of storm chasing with weather campers.

Summer Camps and Solar Eclipse

A family from Washington, DC, and a couple from Maryland enjoying the Solar Eclipse in Belton.

Space campers Anna and Katie Ortiz help museum director Abigail Burden demonstrate how a lunar eclipse works, using a flashlight for the sun, large blue ball for earth and a ping-pong ball for the moon.

Space campers guess the relative distance between earth and the closest star with Clemson University astronomy professor Sean Brittain.

Heritage Days at the Depot

October 5—7, 2017

15 Traditional Skills Artisans and Historical Interpreters

Come enjoy presentations of living traditions

Public Invited Free of Charge

Saturday, October 7 9:30 AM—3:30 PM

This award-winning living history event showcases the talents of fifteen folk skills artisans who offer presentations and hands-on demonstrations of their crafts. This year's presenters include Gale McKinley (split oak basket weaver), Chris Weik (Native American flute maker), Justin Guy (traditional potter), Millie Chaplin (Southern story teller), Thomas "Stick Man" Williams (Gullah cane carver), Bill Lacasse (zither maker), Jonathon Harper (lure carver), Heyward Haltiwanger (miller), Rick Owens (log cabin builder), Scott Beam (wheelwright), Wesley Owens (bladesmith), Karen Cox (soap maker), Barbara Ervin (printmaker/typesetter), and Benjamin Raven Pressley (Native American weapons).

Join us for Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 29, 6:30 PM **Combo Kings Concert**

The Combo Kings will perform a benefit concert for the Belton Area Museum Association on Saturday, September 29, beginning at 6:30 PM, at the Listening Room on Main. This group has created a huge following and are known for their entertaining sets of classic rock, show tunes, top 40, beach music, and cover tributes. Dance the night away. No cover charge, beer and wine sold for $2.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 10 AM—4 PM **Mule Drawn Wagon Rides Through Historic District**

Come take a leisurely ride through the historic district of the City of Belton as a guide narrates the history of its people and places. View the beautiful architecture, learn about the entrepreneurs and the town's eccentric characters, and listen to interesting stories and fascinating facts of another age and time; cost per rider – Adults $5 each; Students $3 each; Under 3 free; Sponsored by Superior Engineering.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 4:30—8:30 PM **Cornhole Tourney**

Main Street will be the scene of a new event during the Belton Standpipe Heritage and Arts Festival this year. Grab a friend or loved one and try your skill at an amateur cornhole tourney. The lucky team will take away a cash prize. $10 entry fee per team, limited to 20 teams.

Thank you for your support

Foundation Support:

Hart-Oeland Foundation | Medline Foundation | Pope Brown Foundation

SC Tennis Patrons Foundation | WebbCraft Family Foundation

Grant Support:

Anderson County Council | City of Belton Hospitality Fund | SC - Chili Cook-off Championships

The Humanities Council, SC | Williams Cyber Grant

If you do not see your name in the list to the right, that means your membership has expired. Your membership is important to the operation of the Belton Area Museum Association. Please mail this form with your check or credit card payment to Belton Area Museum Association, 100 N. Main St. Belton, SC 29627.

Dues are tax- deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone # _____ ❑Email _____

(Please add email address we will be sending out E/newsletters in the future.)

Level of Membership (Please check one)

❑ Student ($10) ❑ Individual ($20) ❑ Family ($30) ❑Patron ($100)

❑ Sustainer ($250) ❑ Benefactor ($500) ❑Trustee ($1000)

Card type ❑Visa ❑Mastercard ❑Discover

Card # _____ Exp. _____ Security Code_____

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Caroline Singleton	Joda Snipes	Allison Gambrell Swilley	William R. Thomson	Nicki M. Wilson

The Belton Museum is available for rentals!

It's the perfect spot for your upcoming event.

Holiday Parties, Weddings, Rehearsal Dinners,

Birthday Parties, Seminars, Fundraisers,

Anniversaries, Family Reunions, etc.

Call 864-338-7400 to reserve your date.

It's the best deal in Anderson County!

Upcoming Events

9/21	**Genealogy Program-Elinor Mowbry**
9/24	**Exhibit Opening - Fins, Feathers, Claws, and Paws: Living with Creatures**
10/5-7	**Heritage Days at the Depot**
10/19	**Paranormal Program**
10/26	**Halloween Walking Tour**
10/31	**Trick or Treat on the Square**
11/4	**Hunter Education Class**
11/16	**Genealogy Program**
11/18	**3rd Annual Turkey Shoot**
12/2	**Christmas in Belton: Christmas Parade and Lighting of the Tree**

Belton Area Museum Association
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