

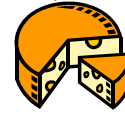
Our 2024 Sustaining Partners:

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"Cheese Is Our Culture"™

Culture, Curds, and Cheesey Chatter



October 2024

A Publication of the National Historic Cheesemaking Center



WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmenger and longtime WCMA leaders Steve Stettler of **Decatur Dairy** and Dave Buholzer of **Klondike Cheese Company** brought their extensive cheese knowledge to Lugano, Switzerland, on the first week of October through a unique opportunity: serving as judges at the **Swiss Cheese Awards**. Both Dave and Steve are members of NHCC Board of Directors!



REMINDER DATES

Membership meeting reminder on Wednesday,
October 16, 5 PM at NHCC

NHCC officially closes for season Oct. 31



Volume 17, Issue 7

Thanks to Colony Brands Inc. for the printing of Culture

A HUGE thank you to our 2024 valued members, listed here:

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Stirring the kettle,

With President Jim



Alert!!!!!! If you know folks who are visiting the area yet this year, from Louisiana, Delaware, Vermont, or North Dakota, please contact director, Deb Briggs, at 608.293.2396. We are trying to obtain guest book signatures from all 50 states this year. Deb will personally greet them and offer complimentary admission to the museum, even after hours or during the early winter season. Those are the **ONLY** four states that have not graced us with their presence this year.



Board of Directors

Fayth Block, treasurer
 Dave Buholzer, past president
 Jim Glessner, president
 Anita Huffman, secretary
 Gary Grossen, director
 Ken Klassey, director
 Fritz Kopp, director
 Steve Stettler, director
 Henry Tschanz, vice president



Admin Staff

Deborah Briggs
 Director
 Deborah Myers
 Asst. Director

Culture, Curds and Cheesey Chatter is published monthly and bi-monthly by the National Historic Cheesemaking Center, P.O. Box 516, Monroe, WI 53566
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Cheese Days King and Queen Tony and Esther Zraggen during the festival in Monroe, above; and Ashley and Dan Wegmueller, left, who hosted the Cheese Days farm tours, and operate a thriving farmstay in rural Green County.

A Copper Teething Tool?

On a Saturday afternoon, Wyatt, sister, Hazel, and their mom came to the museum while dad and older sister were enjoying time on the Cheese Country Trail. Wyatt is fascinated with cows



and trains. Honey Belle and the caboose are the reasons they stopped. Wyatt loved on Honey Belle for quite some time. When we strolled into the museum to find the many cows that are displayed, Wyatt dropped his dairy farm coloring book and clamped down on the rim of the small Daughenbaugh copper kettle in the Heritage Room.

Mom explained, "*Wyatt is teething.*"

AFTER



Coplien Painting washed, scraped, and repainted the depot which houses NHCC and the Green County Welcome Center. The results are astounding and we give immense thanks to Coplien for an excellent job!

NHCC applied for and received a grant from the Monroe Fund to support this painting project. Coplien Painting also contributed a significant donation and the NHCC Executive Board has granted Coplien Painting Exceptional Partner memberships (\$200-\$250) for 2024 and 2025.





On September 16, a mystery bus tour from Indiana tour operator, Miller Family Tours, brought 52 guests to tour the museum. Three women from Tennessee happened to stop by when the bus arrived and joined in the fun. Thank you to volunteers Fritz, Rudy, and Jim as group tour guide docents and greeter Diane Knautz.

Dairy Farmers contest winners visit Cheese museum



For National Cheese Lover's Day this past January, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) held a Cheese Dreams Contest and Sweepstakes. A large number of entrants asked for a trip to Wisconsin, the State of Cheese. DFW hosted a full day of cheese-filled adventure. On Saturday, September 28th, the group toured NHCC as one stop on their "cheesy" experience. Contest winners were from Milwaukee, Muskego, the Chicago area, and New York City.



-Assistant Director, Deb Myers, went on the "Sneak Peek" Cheese Days Farm Tour on Sep 8. Deb states that the "cuteness" factor was great at the Ms J and Co Sheep farm. There were 4 newborns the day we were there; too precious.

This Brown Swiss calf was on the Wegmueler farm. Why do calves want to lick everything?



The NHCC Cheese Days float Transportation Team, Greg and Jeanne Schwartzlow, right, pulled the float to the Green County Fairgrounds from its storage home at the Klondike Cheese Company. Above left: all cleaned up and no parade. Director Deb and husband Bart cleaned and spiffed up the float. It was all ready to shine but the parade was cancelled due to rain.

PLEASE CLIP FOR REFERENCE

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Monroe, Wisconsin 53566



Website: www.nationalhistoriccheesemakingcenter.org

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Cheese Days weekend volunteer staff at NHCC: Saturday-Jim Glessner, Virgil and Carol Leopold, Francisco Ocampo, Fritz Kopp (not pictured). Sunday-Fritz Kopp, Silvan Blum, Francisco Ocampo. Open house style--no guided tours. Director Deb's unscientific formula for counting visitors Sep 20-22: Count two people for every visitor that signs the guest book: 107 names x 2 = 214 visitors!! Wow!



Wisconsin's 77th Alice in Dairyland, Halei Heinzl, enjoyed our Cheese Days event. She is shown with a cheese nibble above; with Stephanie Klett, former state Tourism director, and our Limburger Queen, top right; and at the cheesemaking demonstration area, right bottom.



Aki and Tomoko Ichinomiya made another return visit to NHCC on Friday of Cheese Days weekend. It was determined that their first visit to the museum was during Cheese Days 2016 and Donna Douglas connected with them and gave them a tour. They are on the Dairy & Food Science staff at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.





Photo by Dawnie Egli

Cheese Days: King Tony sampling cheese curds; Director Deb and Bart; docents Virgil and Carol Leopold; Gary and Corie Grossen, former Cheese Days King and Queen; and even a limburger float that remained unseen.



NATIONAL HISTORIC CHEESMAKING CENTER Minutes of August 21,2024

Members present: Henry Tschanz, Jim Glessner, Fayth Block, Fritz Kopp, Donna Douglas, Millie Stauffer, Dave Buholzer, Gary Grossen, Deb Briggs, Deb Myers, Anita Huffman

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Jim at 5:00PM.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the July 17 meeting were shared and approved. Motion by Henry, second by Fritz. C.

Treasurer's Report: The January to July YTD report was shared and approved. Motion by Dave, second by Henry. C.

Director's Report: There have been 900 paid tours and visitors from 43 states. There are eight step-on guide tours scheduled throughout the rest of the year and one in summer of 2025.

Committee Reports:

Archival/Displays: No report

Building & Grounds: Fritz contacted Coplien's and was told they planned to paint "next week". He also has received two bids for mulch and recommends Ballard. Motion by Fritz, second by Dave. C.

Sunshine/Sympathy: Millie has sent three cards since last reporting.

Website: Deb reported in Unfinished Business

Unfinished Business:

Funds from the Monroe Fund for sign restoration have been received. Deb reported on current website status. The domain name is being changed to nhccmuseum.org. Computer Know How is working on making changes and merging two sites. Other changes are being researched and it was decided to table this until more information is received. The redesign of the brochure is in process. 500 of the current design will be ordered for use until the design update is complete.

New Business:

The Volunteer Appreciation luncheon is scheduled for November 19 at Turner Hall's Ratskeller.

2025 will mark the 30th anniversary for NHCC and 15 years since the dedication of the Imobersteg factory on site. There will be a cheesemaking demonstration and celebration on Saturday, September 20, 2025.

There was a discussion about possible maintenance needed on the Cheese Days float. Dave will inspect and make a recommendation.

President Jim asked the board for an adjustment to both director's wages as they have put in more hours due to fewer volunteers participating. He asked this be retroactive to 8/1. Motion by Fritz, second by Henry. C. He also requested an increase for both directors starting in January 1, 2025. Motion by Dave, second by Fritz. C.

Donna suggested that NHCC should be contributing to the Monroe Fund as we apply for grants every year. The finance committee will investigate this and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Due to possible action on the float and other Cheese Days preparations, it was decided to move the next meeting to September 11.

Adjournment:Adjourned at 5:51PM. Motion by Fritz, second by Henry. C.

Respectfully submitted: Anita Huffman, Secretary

Preserving "An era that was, that will never be again."



NATIONAL HISTORIC CHEESEMAKING CENTER, INC.

2025

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

The National Historic Cheesemaking Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

dedicated to educating the public about the heritage and art of cheesemaking.

Memberships valid from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

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All annual memberships renew January 1st.

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The National Historic Cheesemaking Center is a tribute to those who have gone before...and is dedicated to the hard work and sacrifices of all those in the dairy industry who have made this area of southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois internationally famous.

The unique center recalls the rich heritage of the area and is illustrative of the lively cheese industry which still flourishes today.

*.....Recalling an era that was,
And will never be again!*



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