



CULTURE, CURDS, AND CHEESY CHATTER

National Historic Cheesemaking Center



2025 SUSTAINING PARTNERS \$500

- Alp & Dell Cheese Store
- Alpine Slicing & Cheese Conversion
- Bank of New Glarus
- Baumgartner's Cheese Store, Inc.
- Dave & Glenda Buholzer
- Ron & Sue Buholzer
- Cheese Louise, Inc.
- Colony Brands
- Darlington Dairy Supply
- Decatur Dairy, Inc.
- Decatur Swiss Co-Op
- Foreign Type Cheesemaker's Assn.
- Gibbsville Cheese Co
- Terry Goetz, Paul Zimmerman
- Guggisberg Cheese
- Ken Klassey
- Klondike Cheese Co.
- Fritz & Barbara Kopp
- Maple Leaf Cheese Store
- Maple Leaf Cheesemakers, Inc.
- Michael Muranyi & Shelley
- Kubly Muranyi
- Jane Paradowski
- Plier Family Fund
- Regez Supply Co., Inc.
- Bill & Carolyn Robichaux
- Sargento Foods Inc.
- Silver-Lewis Cheese Co-Op
- Steve & Glennette Stettler

REMINDER DATES

A Membership meeting reminder on Wednesday, August 20th, 5 PM at NHCC. ALL Members are invited to attend these monthly meetings and exercise their voting privileges.

ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

As we said in the July newsletter, plans are underway for the 30th anniversary of the NHCC and the 15th anniversary of the Imobersteg cheese factory. We will need some volunteers to help manage the day. Please let us know if you will be available that day, September 20th during the hours of 10-3.

- Super 8 of Monroe
- Henry Tschanz
- V&V Supremo Foods, Inc.
- Valley Queen Charitable Foundation
- Vilutis and Co., Inc.
- Wengers Springbrook Cheese, Inc.
- Wisconsin Cheese Makers Assn.
- WI Swiss & Limburger Producers Assn
- Woodford State Bank
- Chuck & Gail Zeitler
- Bonnie Zumkehr Sauey



LIFETIME PARTNERS

Colony Brands Inc
Jean Tullett
Greg Knoke
Deppeler Wood Shop LLC
Donna Douglas
Terry & Mary Ann Hanna

**Our Exceptional Partners
\$200-\$250**

Badger State Propane, Inc.
Ron Goecke
Nate & Joanne Hare
Benjamin Johnson
L&S Truck Service
Mark & Lynn Mayer
Ellie Meyer & Greg Joseph
Jim & Donna Mueller
Bill & Marilyn Ross
Zwygart Family Partnership
Phil & Mary Lindemann Cold Pack Cheese LLC
Shirley Knox & Paul Peterson

**Business & Supporting Memberships
\$50-\$150**

Greg & Susan Anderson
James & Joan Andresen
Paul & Carolyn Beach
Bart & Deborah Briggs
Chalet Cheese Co-op
Douglas S Mayer Transport Inc.
Edelweiss Creamery LLC
Steve & Jo Ann Esser
Dennis & Janice Everson

**Business & Supporting Memberships
\$50-\$150**

Bob & Nancy Faith
Tim & Diane Gile
James Glessner
Gary & Corie Grossen
Terry & Mary Ann Hanna
Anita Huffman
Russell & Donna Johnson
Harvey Kubly
Virgil & Carol Leopold
Jerry & Lynn Lokken
John Marean
Myron & Geri Olson
Carol Pierson
Janet Zee & Ron Purintun
Bob & Kathy Reffue
Richard Rote
Jon & Carol Rufenacht
David & Holly Schmid
Jo Schwitz
Mary Ann Stauffacher
Millie Stauffer
Dan & Ann Stearns
William & Christine Viney
Mark Steinmann
Paul Vassalotti



August 2025

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi everyone!!

I missed the monthly NHCC meeting, as July is always busy. Took some time off, to live on the water for a week, and check-in with my old up north buddies! Had the annual WCMA Summer Golf Outing, it's always good to meet up with cheese industry people. I've also been working on projects!!

State Fair judging has been completed, with Wisconsin companies giving it their all and many doing quite well. We all wait until the Wisconsin State Fair starts to find out who the overall winner of the fair is. There are several southern Wisconsin companies in the running, as we have a couple in there, good luck to everyone.

The Green County Fair and Foreign Type Cheesemakers had their contest and auction with good participation. The fair had four judges from the cheese industry in Wisconsin: John Jaeggi, Mary Ann Smukowski, Dean Sommer, and our local retired state grader, Mike Pederson. Judging the contest, they were impressed with the competition and the quality of the cheese competing.

Sabrosura Foods won the Grand Champion with their Panela Basket Cheese. Judges were just impressed with how flawless this cheese was, as it is tough to do. Now that goes with any cheese, but they were on their game with this entry. I do realize there are probably some Swiss turning over in their graves with a Mexican Cheese winning it all in the Green County Fair in Wisconsin.

The Cheese Auction is a treat and as gouda as it gets, good buyers and competition, always making history.

Have a great month,

Steve!!!

CHEESY NOTES FROM DEB

We have been very busy at the Center. There have been several group tours so far this year. Thank you to the docents who have volunteered to do extra duty and guide these groups on "off" days at the Center.

The museum has been open now for two full months. Our guests have been from all over. As of this newsletter, we have been visited by folks from 41 states and 11 countries. If you know of visitors from: Delaware, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Washington, D.C. or West Virginia, contact Deb Briggs @ 608-293-2396. We will meet up with you to get their entry in the NHCC guest book.

Our docents have commented on how interesting and interested our visitors have been. Cheesemaking is of great interest to all!

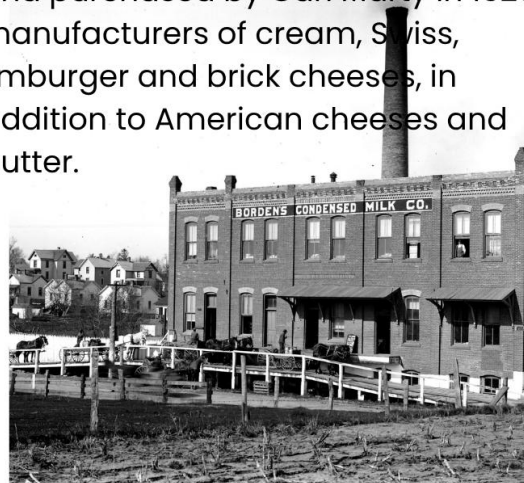
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MUSEUM A STEP BACK IN TIME



Some of you may not be familiar with the story of the 'Unknown Cheesemaker'. Benedict Roder, born 1880, immigrated from Switzerland making cheese in Clarno, located just south of Monroe. He then continued as a cheesemaker at the Keylock Factory near Brooklyn, Wisconsin. This portrait, displayed here since 1995, became a signature photo and most frequently was referred to as our "Unknown Cheesemaker." It was not until 2014, when his daughter, Virginia Fuchsteiner at the age of 90, came forward after seeing the picture in a local newspaper and identified her Father's portrait with an early 1900's wedding photo.

The Borden's Condensed Milk Co. , located on the far north side in Monroe, Wisconsin, operated as a condensery from 1902 until 1927. Founder, Gail Borden, was granted a patent for unsweetened condensed milk in 1854 and sweetened condensed milk in 1856, opening his first commercial plant in Connecticut in 1857. With the outbreak of the Civil War, demand increased for condensed milk. Pet Milk Co. later introduced the first evaporated milk products fortified with vitamin D in 1934. Currently, less than 2% of the U.S. milk production is evaporated or condensed. At one time this plant had its own well and water tower, the building also boasted a Coopers shop, where wooden barrels were made.

The building was sold to Kraft-Phenix and purchased by Carl Marty in 1925, manufacturers of cream, Swiss, limburger and brick cheeses, in addition to American cheeses and butter.



The National Historic Cheesemaking Center and Museum (NHCC) is celebrating two anniversaries this year. The 30th anniversary for the opening of the museum, after the depot building was moved and restored, and the 15th anniversary for the dedication of the Imobersteg farmstead cheese factory. The date of this celebration is Saturday, September 20th from 10am to 3pm. The celebration will include a cheesemaking demonstration of a 90-pound wheel of Swiss Cheese, made the “old fashioned” way in the Imobersteg factory.

We are planning a newspaper insert to promote the celebration. The Anniversary Committee would like you to help us publicize this special event by telling us your experiences and anecdotes about your time spent at NHCC. Please mail or email your remembrances to NHCC no later than August 20th.

We are hoping the newspaper insert will become a keepsake for everyone. Thank you for your participation.

Mail to NHCC: PO Box 516, Monroe, WI 53566 or email: nhccmuseum@gmail.com

Remembrances

ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Heartland Graphics has logos from the NHCC that they will embroider or transfer on t-shirts, hats, bags, etc. You can bring your own shirt to them, and the embroidery cost is \$12, or \$12 plus the cost of the shirt. As for the transfers, it all depends on what you want (i.e. left chest and/or full front or back). Transfers are priced based on size. Left chest size is \$8 and full front or back is \$15 plus the cost of the shirt.



2025 Green County Fair Cheese Contest

We would like to congratulate all of our Cheesemakers for a great showing at the 2025 Green County Fair. There were 106 entries from 10 factories representing 41 cheesemakers. Sabrosura Foods, Monroe, WI was the Grand Champion this year with their 3# Panela Basket with a score of 99.6.

The cheese auction of the 1st-3rd place entries took place in the Entertainment Tent North of Exhibition Hall at the Green County Fairgrounds on Sunday, July 20, 2025. All auction proceeds went to charitable causes chosen by the Foreign Type Cheesemaker's Board of Directors.



**National Historic Cheesemaking Center
Minutes of June 18, 2025**

Members present: Henry Tschanz, Fritz Kopp, Ken Klassey, Terry Goetz, Gary Grossen, Donna Douglas, Mary Ann Hanna, Lynn Lokken, Jo Ann Schwitz, Millie Stauffer, Fayth Block, Steve Stettler, Deb Myers, Deb Briggs, Anita Huffman

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

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the June 18 meeting were shared. Motion to approve by Fritz, second: Ken. C.

Treasurer's Report: The January through May treasurer's report was presented. Motion to approve: Mary Ann, second: Millie. C.

Director's Report: Deb B. shared the written report. She noted much time has been spent on preparations for the 30th Anniversary in September. She also said a committee is needed to oversee preparations for the activities of the day.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: Election of Interim President: Nominations were made and closed at the May meeting. Steve Stettler has agreed to take the position of interim president following Jim Glessner's resignation. Motion by Donna, second: Gary. C. Steve chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Anniversary Committee: Deb B. reported on plans in place so far but again stressed the necessity of an oversight committee. Volunteers to serve on the anniversary committee: Terry Goetz, Lynn Lokken, Steve Stettler, Anita Huffman, Deb Briggs, Deb Myers, with the possibility of additions. The first meeting will be Tuesday, 6/24, at 4:00PM.

Finance: The directors now have access to the Woodford State Bank account.

Building & Grounds: Fritz is seeking another bid for the ramp railing. A sinkhole was discovered; the city filled it.

Archival Displays: Mary Ann noted there have been some problems with the new computer and Computer Know How is working on them. Steve mentioned the value of pictures of cheesemakers in the newsletter.

Grants: Deb has gotten clarification of the timeline for Southern Wisconsin Community Foundation grants. If we complete a project and pay the invoice, before a grant is applied for or awarded, it will not qualify for a grant award.

Membership: Steve suggested broadening requests for memberships to state and even national access. The possibility of having meetings via Zoom would aid in member access to meetings. Fritz reported an increase in business memberships. He also noted that he sent 12-15 reminder letters to sustaining members in March. Posting often on Facebook was suggested and Mary Ann said she could do that.

Sunshine/Sympathy: Millie sent two get-well cards last week.

Volunteer Relations: Deb advised the group that we have three new volunteers.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 5:55PM by Fritz, second: 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.

NAME _____

SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL _____

Please mail the newsletter to the above mailing address. Yes ___ No ___

Email the newsletter to:

E-MAIL _____

CHOOSE TO RENEW

ONLINE

OR

US MAIL

Renew your annual NHCC membership online at :
www.nhccmuseum.org

Make checks payable to “NHCC” and
mail with this form to:
 National Historic Cheesemaking Center
 PO Box 516
 Monroe, WI 53566

(PLEASE CHOOSE ONE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY)

- | | | |
|--|----------|--------|
| _____ INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP | \$15.00 | Annual |
| _____ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP | \$25.00 | Annual |
| _____ Business & Supporting Membership-Level 1 | \$50.00 | Annual |
| _____ Business & Supporting Membership-Level 2 | \$100.00 | Annual |
| _____ Business & Supporting Membership-Level 3 | \$200.00 | Annual |
| _____ SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP (front page) | \$500.00 | Annual |

Thank you for your support!

**National Historic
Cheesemaking Center
P.O. Box 516
Monroe WI 53566**

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Monroe WI
Permit No. 236

Return Service Requested

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!*



IMOBERSTEG CHEESE FACTORY

**National
Historic Cheesemaking
Center
2108 6th Avenue
Monroe WI 53566**

August 2025

Date		THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
Aug 1-3	DOCENT		Lynn L ¹	Fritz 10-12:30 Rudy 12-3 ²	Fritz 12:30-3 Francisco ³	
	GREETER		Diane K 10-2 No Myers	Margo 10-2 No Myers	Jim G 11-3 No Myers	
Aug 4-6	CLOSED	MONDAY 4	TUESDAY 5	WEDNESDAY 6		
Aug 7-10	DOCENT	Jon R ⁷ Donna B 10-12	Ken K 10-1 12:30-3 ⁸ Jim G, Peggy K, Jonathon	Fritz 10-12:30 ⁹ Silvan B	Lynn L ¹⁰ Francisco	
	GREETER	Carol R	Diane K 10-2 Hurd family	Jane P	No Briggs	
Aug 11-13	CLOSED	MONDAY 11	TUESDAY 12	WEDNESDAY 13		
Aug 14-17	DOCENT	Mike H ¹⁴ Deb H	Jonathon 12:30-3 ¹⁵	Fritz 10-12:30 ¹⁶	Francisco ¹⁷	
	GREETER	Jeanne S	Matt F	Charlotte H	Mary F 10-12:30 Jim G 12:30-3 No Myers	
Aug 18-20	CLOSED	MONDAY 18	TUESDAY 19	WEDNESDAY 20		
Aug 21-24	DOCENT	Mike H ²¹ Deb H Kelly H Ernie G	Jim G 12:30-3 ²²	John M ²³	Francisco ²⁴	
	GREETER	Lynn L	Charlotte H	Carol R	No Briggs	
Aug 25-27	CLOSED	MONDAY 25	TUESDAY 26 Rainbow Childcare	WEDNESDAY 27		
Aug 28-31	DOCENT	²⁸	Ken K ²⁹	Fritz 10-12:30 ³⁰ Silvan B	Francisco ³¹	
	GREETER	Jeanne S	Diane K 10-1 Jim G 12:30-3		Mary F No Myers	