

Exhibit Room Report

Foundation Meeting, July 2023

Respectfully Submitted by Liz Kneer, Exhibit Room Coordinator

Past Exhibit

Rotary: 30 Years & Just Getting Started (April 10, 2023-May 26, 2023)

Our Rotary exhibit was a great success, with 1017 people attending the exhibit in May, and 2373 total visitors. The Rotarians were very appreciative of this collaboration with the library, and the opportunity to inform our community of all the great work they do. The Rotary exhibit was taken down on May 30, the same day we installed *Hidden Prairie*.

Current Exhibit

Summer Learning Program: Hidden Prairie (June 3, 2023-August 5, 2023)

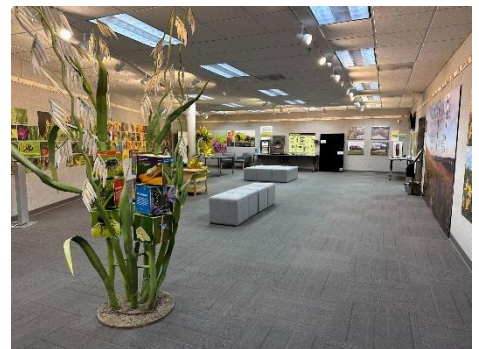
Hidden Prairie is installed! The exhibit arrived in two big crates and was packed full of colorful images and two hands on, interactive plant models. A HUGE thank you is owed to our Exhibit Room Committee-we divided up tasks and got the exhibit installed in one day, which made it possible to open the exhibit three days ahead of schedule. We were able to place additional images upstairs at the main service desk to help draw people to our downstairs space.

This beautiful exhibit is on loan to us from the University of Nebraska State Museum-we are the first location to host the exhibit. Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy's Director of Science in Nebraska, put together an amazing collection of his photographs that tell the story of one square meter of prairie over a year.

<https://museum.unl.edu/exhibits/exhibits/hidden-prairie.html>

<https://prairieecologist.com/2021/10/18/you-guys-i-have-a-museum-exhibit/>

Children's Department librarian Paula Reedy and I are hosting a series of Thursday afternoon programs on Citizen Science. These eight programs will introduce visitors to the exhibit as well as ways they can be citizen scientists, PBS Kids learning resources, and as well as kits to create and record findings from their own square meter project. Topics include bees, butterflies, soils, weather, and solar energy; guest speakers and activities help reinforce these ideas. Paula, who is participating in a PBS Kids cohort, is wonderful to work with and has great ideas and tools to help us provide quality experiences for visitors of all ages. In addition to these programs, we have passive engagement activities in the Exhibit Room that switch every two weeks for visitors to enjoy.



In June we had 2155 people visit the Exhibit Room, with an average of 20 people attending our Thursday Citizen Science programs. June 2022 had 1299 visitors; increased marketing, quality exhibits/programs, and quick exhibit installation (minimizing days the Exhibit Room is closed) has led to a substantial jump in our numbers for 2023.

<https://waupacalibrary.org/exhibit-room/>



Upcoming Exhibit

Darke Hokanson: At Home in Flyover Country (August 8, 2023-October 21, 2023)

Connections are key, and through a friend of one of our Exhibit Room Committee volunteers I was introduced to nationally known photographer, Drake Hokanson.

Here’s a brief introduction from his website:

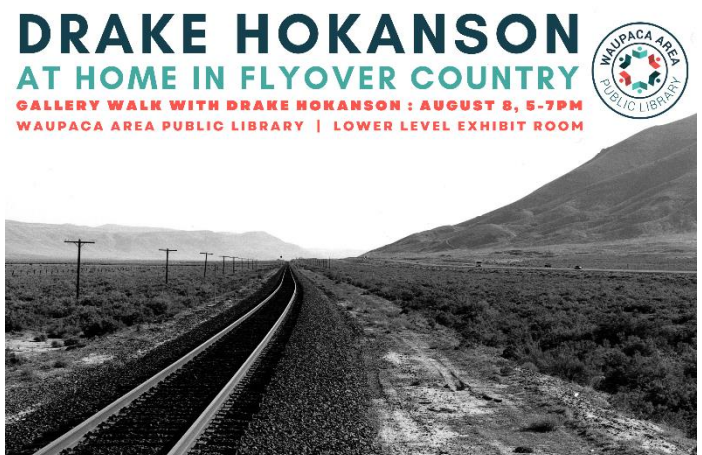
Drake Hokanson is a photographer, author, and editor. He is the author of two books and coauthor of a third and coeditor of a fourth, both with his wife of thirty-plus years, Carol Kratz.

His primary “field” is the American landscape. His digging tools are photography, literary nonfiction writing, and American Studies. He has taught in Japan, Great Britain, at the University of Iowa, Lakeland College, and is Professor Emeritus at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota.

He exhibited his first photograph in 1970 as a college freshman: a small sepia-tone landscape image that hung in a group show at the East Street Gallery in Grinnell, Iowa. It hangs today in his darkroom in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Since then Hokanson has exhibited from Connecticut to California, with a score of one-man shows in art museums, historical and cultural museums and private galleries.

<http://www.drakehokanson.com/photographs.html>

We finally solidified an installation date for *At Home in Flyover Country*, and Drake will deliver his artwork to Waupaca on August 8 to install the exhibit that morning early afternoon. He has graciously agreed to host a gallery walk/meet the artist event from 5-7pm that same evening. This will be an extremely quick turnaround for installation, but with Drake and his wife there, as well as our great Exhibit Room committee volunteers, I am fully confident that we will make it happen. We will additionally capitalize on Articipation Week and Arts on the Square the following week to market this exhibit. Drake will be back October 16 for a program with Winchester Academy.



Additional Exhibit Room Items

EXHIBIT ROOM REMODEL: I met with Chain Cabinetry and Jake Waller (our building superintendent) to look at the built in display case and how it will be installed/built with the existing sprinkler system and lighting. I am anticipating this will be in place by the end of July.

CHARLES SCHULZ EXHIBIT: Thank you to the Foundation for the approval of funds not to exceed \$2800 to support the Charles Schulz exhibit, *Franklin*. Tracy Behrendt, from the Waupaca Historical Society, approached me to partner on a documentary "The Exchange. In White America. Kaukauna and King: 50 Years Later." After talking with the city grant writer, Greg Grohman, he feels these two projects together would make a great application for a Wisconsin Humanities Council grant. I will continue to work with Greg and Tracy on ways we can make this a successful partnership and submission.

The Library Foundation subcommittee continues to meet to discuss plans for our 30th Anniversary of the 'new' library this fall. Dates and topics are being solidified for programs and events.

The Community Blood Center (CBC) approached me to host an exhibit and are added to our schedule for April/May of 2025. I am still waiting to hear if we were selected to host the Creative Power Collection in August/September 2024; the CBC is happy to fill this slot if it becomes available. Outside of finding a 'big' exhibit for our June/July Summer Learning slot, we are fully booked for the next two years.

Monthly Attendance Reports

The attendance charts for May and June are included with this report.

2023 Schedule

- *Women*: December 10-January 28
- *Youth Art Month*: February 4-March 31
- *Waupaca Rotary: 30 Years & Just Getting Started*: April 8-June 3
- *Waupaca Solar Energy/Waupaca Prairie/Citizen Science (Summer Learning Program)*: June 10- August 5
- *Drake Hokanson: At Home in Flyover Country*- August 12-October 21
- *Waupaca History 101 (digitized historic collection)*-October 28-December 9
- *Black History Month*: December/January

2024 Schedule

- *Black History Month*: December/January
- *Youth Art Month*: February/March
- *Ecuadorian Art*: April/May
- *Creative Power Collection/ WorkLife (Artists with disabilities/Employment inclusion)*: Late August/September
- *Typewriters*-October/November
- *Quilts*-December/January

2025 Schedule

- *Quilts*-December/January
- *Youth Art Month*: February/March
- *Community Blood Center*: April/May (potential bump to Aug/Sept 2024)