

SRS Museum May 2022 Newsletter



SRS Newsletter Returns

The Savannah River Site Museum is pleased to launch a quarterly newsletter to ensure Savannah River Heritage Foundation members and the public remain informed about the achievements, events, and programs of the museum.

So far, 2021-2022 has offered many challenges and opportunities for the museum, including staff changes, renewed educational programming, and public outreach. The museum continues to operate as an integral part of the downtown Aiken community as well as a public history resource for SRS employees past and present.

Updated Museum Hours

SRS Museum has expanded its hours to better serve the Aiken community and out-of-town visitors!

We are now open:

Wednesday-Saturday

10am-4pm

In order to accommodate our expanded schedule, SRSM is seeking an energetic volunteer base. We have been thrilled to welcome three weekly docents who provide relevant historic, scientific, and local context to museum visitors.



We are seeking volunteers!

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE MUSEUM

SRS Museum wants YOU to volunteer!

- Connect with the Aiken community
 - Help visitors learn local history
 - Explore the impact of SRS
 - Attend and assist museum events
 - Provide tours that focus on Cold War history and nuclear science
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Apply online at srsheritagemuseum.org

Or call us at 803-648-1437

Interested individuals can click on the button below to fill out an application or call the museum for more information.

Volunteer Application

Upcoming Outreach and Events

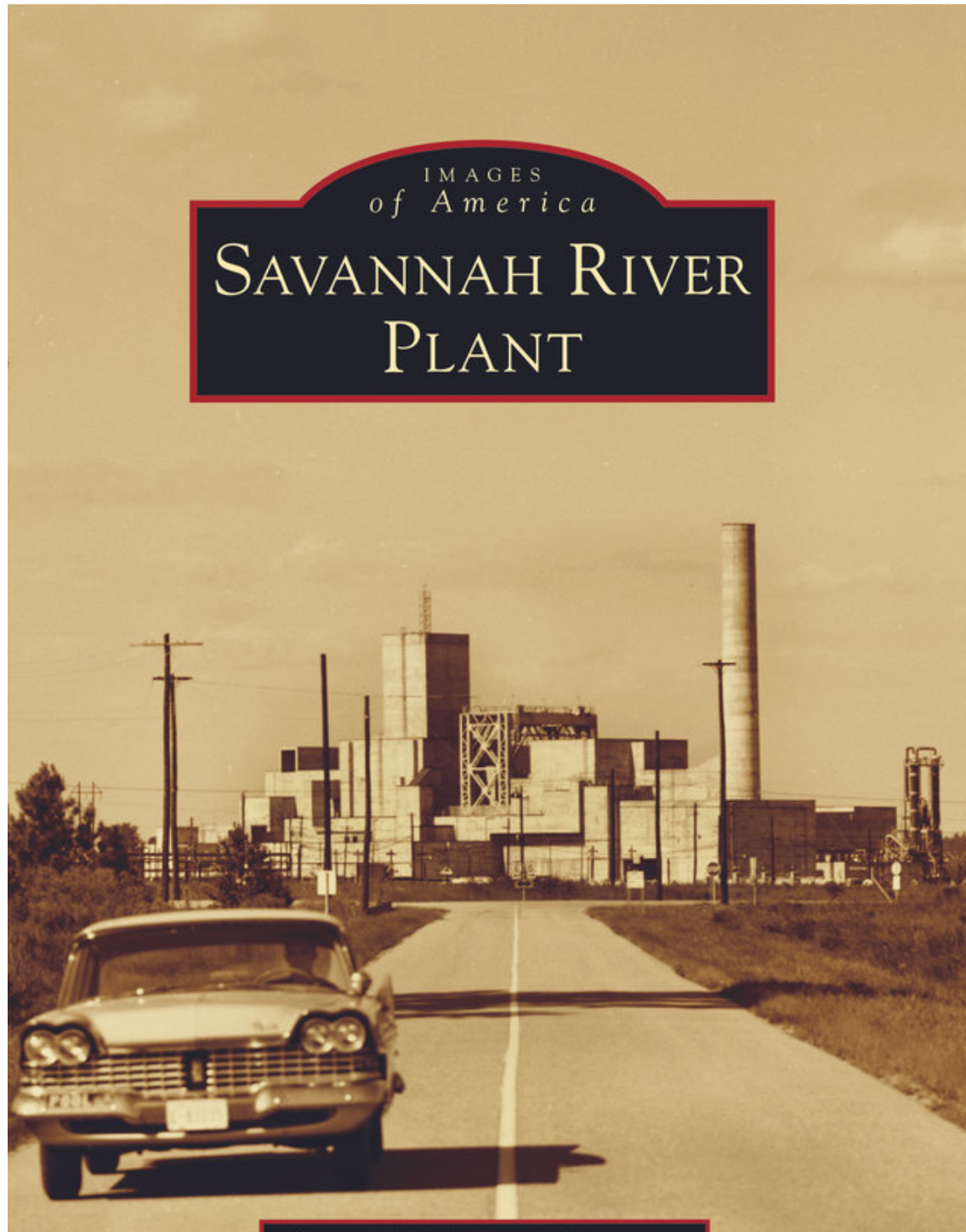
On May 7th, SRSM participated in Family Earth and Sky Night at Ruth Patrick Science Center on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus. The SRSM table featured a glovebox activity as well as informational standees that highlighted Plutonium-238 and Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs). A special thanks goes out to SRSM volunteer Jay Bilyeu, who lent his time and knowledge to teach the public about the role of SRS in the development of Plutonium-238 and its role in long-distance satellite missions.



SRSM is also collaborating with Ruth Patrick Science Center to host the STEM Forward Careers Summer Camp from July 18th-22nd. Campers will be at SRSM on July 20th to learn about STEM Careers at SRS, Radiation Science, and Aiken's rich Cold War history.

A New Perspective on SRS History: Images of America Book Coming Soon

The SRS Museum has received the opportunity to work with Arcadia Publishing Co. on publishing an Images of America book. The book focuses on the early years of the Savannah River Plant and will be on sale at the museum in time for Christmas. This insightful book is the perfect gift for the retired or current nuclear worker in your life!





Upcoming Exhibits

The SRS Museum has been developing the Defense, Deterrence, and Discovery exhibit to debut in October 2022. Visitors will learn about the legacy of Savannah River Plant operations, from the facility's ambitious construction to the future goals of the Savannah River Site. Generous sponsorship from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has allowed the SRS Museum and SRS Heritage Foundation, in partnership with New South Associates, to create a project that features fun interactive components and educational activities for the entire community.

An updated Radiation Exhibit is also in development at the SRS Museum with the financial support and in collaboration with the Savannah River National Laboratory. This exhibit will include an interactive portion that demonstrates how radiological workers protect themselves from different forms of radiation. Visitors will also learn about everyday radioactive items, such as uranium glass and smoke detectors. The museum anticipates opening this exhibit in Fall 2022.

2022 Visitation Update

As summer approaches, and the weather warms, people are preparing to travel. From January to April 2022, the museum has seen a swell in visitors; as compared to 2021, the visitation numbers have nearly doubled. We are glad to report that we have drawn an audience of 49% out-of-town visitors and 51% local Aikenites.

While the Pandemic is in a different place this year (and we have also experienced the wonderful effects of being near Augusta during the Masters), we would like to credit part of this boost in visitation to the steady efforts of in-person outreach, our wonderful tourism partners, and social media.

If you have not done so already, please click on the buttons below to like the SRSM Facebook page, follow us on Instagram, and subscribe to our Youtube!

Follow Us!





SRS Heritage and Tourism Meeting, April 2022



Education Program Updates

In Winter 2021, the SRS Museum launched its first curriculum-based lesson plan. *Cold War Declassified: Culture & Ideology During the Clash of Superpowers* explores the international and local impacts of the Cold War's nuclear arms race. From the rise of the Berlin Wall to the arrival of SRS in South Carolina, this lesson plan offers instruction and insight through first-hand resources, interactive exercises, and critical response assignments.

The SRS Museum Educational Specialist has brought this program to twelve 5th grade classrooms and more than 350 students in Aiken, Allendale, and Edgefield counties.

SRS Museum has made *Cold War Declassified* available for educators, schools, and programs for free. Find it on our website here:

Cold War Declassified Lesson
Plan

Meet the Staff

SRS Museum has welcomed several new staff members, and we want to take the opportunity to introduce them.

Kelly Brown, Museum Director

Kelly Brown came on board as the SRS Museum new museum director in August 2021. She oversees operations, visitation, development, and exhibitions. Prior to joining the SRS Museum, Kelly was the Archives Laboratory Manager at the Augusta Veteran's Curation Program (VCP). Ms. Brown holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Certificate in Archaeology from the University of Georgia and a Master's in Library and Information Sciences from the University of South Carolina.



Evelyn Berry, Educational Specialist

Evelyn Berry joined the SRS Museum team in January 2021 to further develop the educational and outreach programs. She designs and coordinates school visits, field trips, and virtual programming. Prior to joining the SRS Museum, Evelyn was a Curatorial Assistant in the Cold War Historic Preservation Program at the Savannah River Site. Ms. Berry holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Studies from the College of Charleston and is an award-winning author and performer.



Thanks to Our Sponsors!

We would also like to thank our generous SRS Heritage Foundation and Museum Sponsors who have made substantial contributions to Foundation programs. Thank you!



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The Museum also gratefully recognizes local businesses and individuals of the SRS Heritage Foundation who have provided critical support at the following membership levels. Thank You!



<u>Life</u>	<u>Benefactor</u>	<u>Patron</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Individual</u>
Carol K. Kendall	Walt Joseph	David Wilkerson	Patricia Allen	Jeffrey Allison
Judy Maddox	Andrew (Andy) Albenesius	Bruce (W.B.) Wilson	Jay D. Bilyeu	Merrilee Anderson
Byron Williams	Mary Tilton		Lindsay (DR) Brown	William and Kimbra Cassara
Alice Boni			Michael Budney	Susan A. Ferrara
Michael and Alice Graham			Gayle Bumgarner	J. M. (Mick) Ferrell
			Gary Bunker	Lucian Fox
			Andrew (Andy) Cwalina	Richard (Rick) Geddes
			Carl C. Fields	Elizabeth Georgian
			Charles and Lyddie Hansen	Margaret (Marge) E. Jones
			Arthur Osborne	Doug Leader
			Julie Peterson	Ellyn McNair
				Mark and Monnie Pitts
				Elsie Smith

Anyone can become a member of the SRS Heritage Foundation! If you would like to support the mission of preserving and interpreting the history of the Savannah River Site, click the button below and fill out an application on our website.

Membership Application

224 Laurens Street Southwest,
 Aiken, SC, USA
 (803) 648-1437

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Check out our site 