

Preserving & Interpreting Savannah River Site History



SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

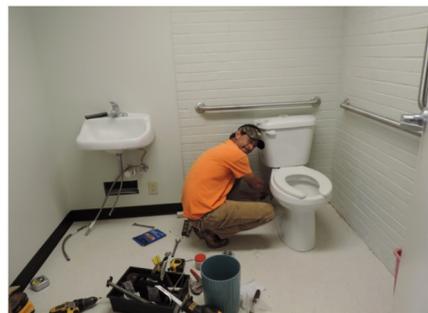
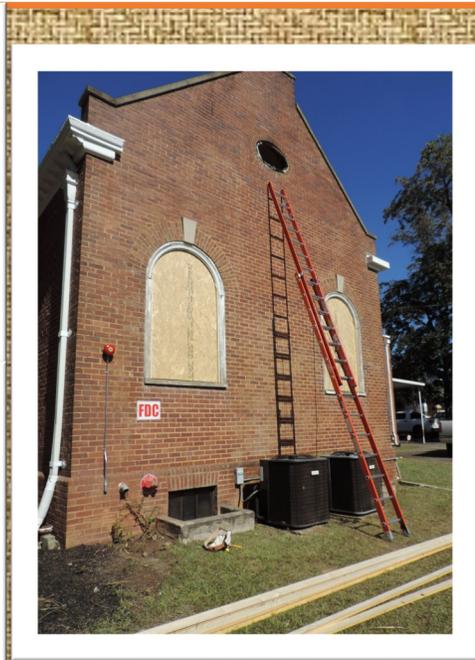
May, 2018

2017 IN REVIEW

Last year featured several significant accomplishments for the Savannah River Site Museum. We progressed from planning and construction to establishing exhibits, hosting events and welcoming visitors as we moved toward our vision of creating a first-class facility to tell the stories of SRS.

The Museum Building

We completed the first phase of planned building construction which added a sprinkler system and security system, provided handicapped access with a ramp and restroom and refurbished the exterior of the historic Dibble Building. The total cost of the Phase 1 restoration was \$144,000, of which \$97,000 came from the Aiken Together capital campaign and the rest from SRS Heritage Foundation funds. This work has enabled us to open the first floor of the Museum to the public and to qualify for loan of DOE artifacts stored at the Curation Facility at SRS.



Incoming money from the Aiken Together program is being banked until sufficient funds are on hand to begin final design of the Phase 2 building modifications which will include an elevator and stairwell to permit public access to the second floor of the building.

Exhibits

Upgrades of Museum exhibits continued with three historic robots loaned from the SRS Curation Facility and a privately-owned Battlebot included in the robotics exhibit deployed in October.



A scale model of a U-2 spy plane was fabricated by the Aiken Radio Control Model Club and was installed in the entry to the Dibble wing.



A kiosk describing fallout shelters was designed by New South Associates and installed in the parkway at Laurens Street and Park Avenue.



Attendance

The Museum was opened to the public for scheduled visits in April. A cadre of docents were trained and the Museum was opened the first and third Fridays and the following Saturdays each month. Attendance during the year totaled 1681 despite the limited openings.

Numerous special openings were scheduled for specific groups. Visitors for these occasions included General Frank Klotz, Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, members of the South Carolina Historical Society, the Russian Joint Expert Inspection Team for the Plutonium Production Reactor Agreement, Jack Craig, Manager of USDOE-SR Operations Office, Red Hat Ladies and SRS and educational groups.



left to right: Wallace Spangler, Senior Vice President NNSA Operations and Programs, General Klotz, Walt Joseph, Executive Director SRS Heritage Foundation, Joe Ortaldo, Chairman of the Board of the SRS Heritage Foundation, Doug Dearolph, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager



Russian Inspection Team Lista Photo



Red Hat Ladies Visit

Programs

The Museum featured a special exhibit and programs to commemorate Nuclear Science Week in October. The Museum program include three historic robots on loan from the SRS Cold War collection and the Battlebot described above. Museum hours were extended to Monday through Saturday for this exhibit. In addition, student robotics teams from local schools demonstrated their projects at the Museum from 5:00m to 7:00pm Monday through Thursday. These activities boosted monthly Museum attendance to 609 for October.

The celebration of Nuclear Science Week concluded with “Atoms in the Alley”, a block party in downtown Aiken. The party began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the fallout shelter kiosk in the Laurens Street-Park Avenue parkway and moved to the Alley for live music, educational exhibits, vendors and a movie.

Participants enjoyed a fun time.



**Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Civil Defence
Fallout kiosk**



Atoms in the Alley

The Future

The year, 2017, has been exciting and productive but we still have much to do and many challenges.

Stay tuned for the excitement in 2018.

Help support our future...Become a member!

SURVEY PREPARES FOR FURTHER BUILDING CONSTRUCTION



Surveyors have completed measuring the land associated with the SRS Museum. No previous plat was found to describe the land associated with the property on which the Dibble Memorial Library was built in 1926. The new plat will facilitate City approval of the proposed Phase 2 construction, which will add an elevator and stairwell to the building.

Money from the ongoing “Aiken Together” campaign is nearly sufficient to begin work on the Phase 2 construction, which will provide for public access to the second floor of the Museum. The survey is the first step in planning for this expansion.

THANKS TO OUR SRS HERITAGE

FOUNDATION SPONSORS

2017

We are please to recognize our sponsors who have made substantial contributions to Foundation programs.

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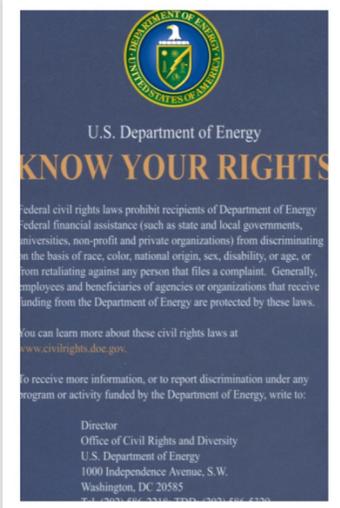
A special thank you to the

individual members for their continued support of the Foundation

DOE GRANT TO FUND EXHIBITS

The Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (OLM) has announced their intent to fund exhibits displaying a message of environmental justice and education for the SRS Heritage Foundation. The proposed one-time grant will provide up to \$100,000 for a major exhibit in the SRS Museum and a series of signs describing locations on the Ellenton Heritage Trail in the former Ellenton community.

The Foundation and several partners submitted a grant proposal to the OLM last year. The resulting grant will fund installation of new interactive exhibits for the Museum and the Trail. Details of the grant work and funding will be arranged during the next several months. *This poster is on display at the museum.*



Like us on
Facebook

We will be posting news and tidbits during these exciting times of Foundation progress. The SRS Heritage Facebook page is open for business. Please join us at <http://www.facebook.com/srs.heritage>. And don't forget the news and archives at the website, <http://www.srsheritagemuseum.org/> or check out the srsmuseum@aikencountysc.gov

The Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) is perhaps the most nationally and internationally recognized contribution of the SRS. When the site was authorized in 1950 and work begun plant construction was not the only activity underway. Site characterization and a complete inventory of the flora and fauna by the Universities of Georgia and South Carolina began at the same time.

The University of Georgia's Institute of Ecology professor Dr. Eugene Odum began work with three graduate students: William Cross, Edward J. Kuenzler, and Leslie Davenport. Each was from a different university and had been recruited by Dr. Odum.

Dr. Odum's words about the beginnings of SREL tell about the early days: "Because of the intense construction activity in the center of the SRP we concentrated our work in the peripheral areas. Our first headquarters was in a sort of two story barn which we rented from a private citizen Equipped with a stove, refrigerator, tables and some bunks, we soon had comfortable quarters. We could set up microscopes, Burlese funnels, other laboratory equipment and field gear. Several old fields near this first headquarters were selected for intensive study. During the fall of 1951-52 the crew spent a lot of time exploring the area via jeep or truck, mapping the vegetation or crop residues in open lands and recording forest types and other noteworthy features. We were especially interested in locating unusual area worthy of subsequent study and preservation. Among these were Carolina bays, sandhill vegetation, spring runs and the virgin hardwood stand on Lower Three Runs Creek."

The early fifties work concentrated on inventorying existing conditions but also took advantage the site offered for ecological research. The University of South Carolina had completed their initial inventory work and departed leaving the UGA to move forward with future research on the reservation.

Dr. Robert A. Norris was hired as the first full-time resident ecologist, and the lab moved into the Bush House, a historic dwelling adapted for Laboratory use. The lab then known as the Laboratory of Radiation Ecology, had a budget of \$60,000 and a staff of 15. Under Dr. Norris and Dr. Odum radiation ecology became the central focus. This work and the research performed at other DOE sites constitute what is known today about the effects of radionuclides on plants and animals. The SREL was officially established and made a permanent part of the site in 1961. The name Savannah River Ecology Laboratory was assigned to better reflect the broad range of studies that were conducted.



First Laboratory—The Bush House.
*Courtesy of Savannah River Ecology
Laboratory.*

...Continued on Pg 7



Savannah River Ecology Staff in front of second laboratory, a military barracks, 1968.

Courtesy of SRS Archives, negative DPSPF 12927-1



Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin, an AEC postdoctoral fellow and Dr. C Phillip Goodyear, an NIH postdoctoral fellow, place an identification tag on a young alligator prior to its release in a thermally-affected PAR Pond at Savannah River. SREL researchers studied seasonal movements and ecology of the alligator population in the field and laboratory.

Courtesy of Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE GREAT NEWS AND EVENTS THAT ARE COMING...JOIN TODAY...(use this form to become a member)



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*I would be willing to help with Publications____, Membership____,
Fundraising____, Publicity____, other____*

This membership is valid through December 2018

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