

The Rocky Ridge Review



Laura Ingalls Wilder - Rose Wilder Lane Home Association
3068 Highway A / Mansfield, MO 65704

The Smithsonian is coming!

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home & Museum and the city of Mansfield are proud to host Museum on Main Street exhibition of BETWEEN FENCES, made possible by the Smithsonian Institution and the Missouri Humanities Council. The exhibit will be on display at the Mansfield Community Center from May 12 until June 23, 2007.

Fences have become a part of our national landscape. Although we may not realize it fences, both physical and virtual, surround us. Fences have defined our nation by outlining boundaries, securing animals and property, and providing direction as to what or who "belongs" on a particular side of a fence.



Note worthy...

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association has been working together with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MO DoT) to have a caution light installed between the parking lot and the entrance to the grounds. It has long been a concern of ours that we provide a safer crossing and hopefully this will alleviate our concerns. We hope to have it up and running by the first of the 2007 season.

In our area of the Ozarks, noted for its rocky hills and hollows, people have for generations utilized the natural resources available for building and fencing materials, and the rock fences we often see are a testament to their hard work and dedication. These fences may be found scattered throughout the countryside, some only giving a hint at their past use and the skill and craftsmanship that went into each one. We are planning many exciting programs that will include members of our community and the surrounding area to focus on the ways fences have shaped our lives and the area we live. Among the planned programs; we hope to have area residents lend or donate photographs of fences, both historic and present day. These photos will be used for a slideshow presentation during the exhibition and any photos that are donated will then become a part of the Mansfield and Douglas County Historical Societies' respective archives. There will be programming for young and old alike and we hope to bring all generations together from all over the Ozarks to explore our heritage and attempt to "tear down" some of the virtual fences between places and people.

The Museum on Main Street program, a partnership between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES), state humanities councils, and small museums in rural communities from all across the U.S., is a one-of-a-kind cultural experience. Their website www.museumonmainstreet.org provides detailed information about all of the exciting exhibits that are touring currently as well as plans for upcoming events.

The Missouri Humanities Council is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. Its mission is "to help the people of Missouri learn about our history, our literature, and the ideas that shape our democracy." Information about the Council is available by calling 1-800-357-0909 or on their website at <http://www.mohumanities.org>