

# The High Grade

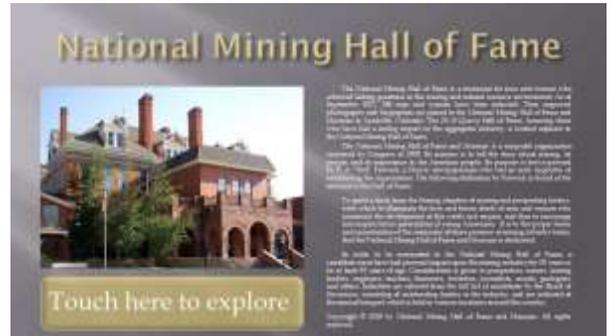
February, 2018

## New Traveling Exhibit



Stephen Whittington  
Executive Director

The National Mining Hall of Fame consists of 240 inductees who have had a major impact on mining in the United States. Plaques featuring inductee photos and biographies are on display in our facility in Leadville, Colorado. However, to increase accessibility to the hall of fame and its inductees, we have created an interactive traveling exhibit based on PowerPoint. In addition to the historic and recent hall of fame inductees, the exhibit includes all of the inductees from



the aggregates industry in the *Pit & Quarry* Hall of Fame, as well as all of the Prazen Living Legend of Mining awardees. Inductees into the National Mining Hall of Fame are associated with virtually all mined minerals, sectors of the industry, and states where mining occurs.

The traveling exhibit can be installed on any computer that has the PowerPoint program on it, but is designed so that it works best with a touch-screen monitor. We display it on a large touch-screen monitor with a built-in computer on a wall in our facility.

The cost to obtain the exhibit itself is mini-

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## Memorial Bequests

In the June 2017 issue of *The High Grade*, we published an article on former NMHFM Board member and local Leadville resident Thomas Cher-

rier, who passed away in March. His is one of two bequests we recently received, of vastly different sizes. Both were more than welcome because

they demonstrated the devotion some individuals have to the NMHFM and our mission. We also recently received a gift from the estate of

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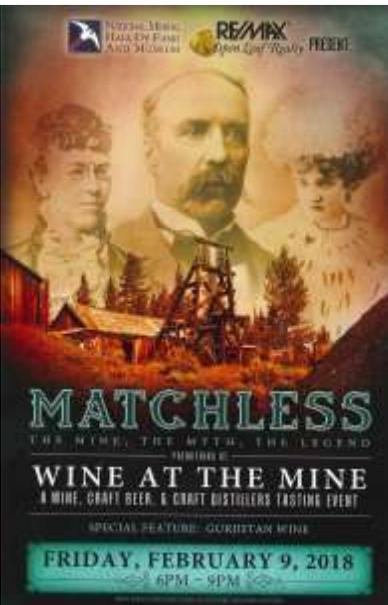
Francine Webber  
Events Manager

## Wine at the Mine 2018

On Friday, February 9, the museum was once again filled with happy faces for our annual Wine at the

**Mine event.** This year's event featured samples of wine from around the globe, as well as do-

mestic craft beers and even a few craft distilled spirits. A total of 350 people were present to enjoy some great appetizers, a lesson on Gurbistan wine, and a first look at our new exhibit, *Matchless: The Mine, The Myth, The Legend.*



*Clockwise, from top left: Guests enjoying Matchless exhibit; dressing up the Hennebach wing, including Laurel McHargue and Christine Whittington; Mt. Massive Liquors serving up a smile or two.*



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For the fifth consecutive year, the accompanying silent auction brought in some healthy bidding, resulting in funding to help pay our overhead during these quieter months of the year. Thank you to all of you who supported this event!

We are already exploring ideas for **next year's theme!**



*Top: Deerhammer Distillery dispensing spirits; Middle left: Tasting a flavorful brew from Periodic Brewing; Middle right: Sandra Mark presents wine from the Republic of Georgia.*



*Bottom Left: A guests raises a glass from Vino Salida.*

*Bottom Right: Brenda Miller a/k/a Baby Doe.*



# The High Grade



Stephanie Johnson  
Curator  
Email: Stephanie@Mininghalloffame.org

## Matchless: The Mine, The Myth, The Legend

For the last four **months we've been** working hard on a new exhibit for 2018 in the temporary gallery at the NMHFM. After de-installing *OnSite* in October, we began prepping, painting, designing, wall-papering, researching, writing, and finally installing this exciting exhibit! *Matchless* debuted on February 9 during our annual wine tasting event.



### NEW EXHIBIT

The Matchless Mine has endured the days of a boom/bust economy, with a storied past of people enjoying its riches, and still proudly stands. This new exhibition strives to focus on the mining story of the Matchless, rather than on the Tabors. The look and feel of

the late 1880s convey a time when the Matchless was at its peak production. There are some never-before displayed collections

mine; a piece of core drilled by Boart Longyear; and sparkling minerals that have been found all over the Leadville Mining District.

We have also included seventeen large historic photographs depicting the Matchless Mine from the 1920s to the present. Our knowledgeable volunteer, Fred Mark, provided commentary for each photo. These photographs show how the mine site, structures and surrounding landscape changed. These changes indicate to us themes such as ownership and occupation of the site, technology, and environmental influences.

Visit the exhibition to see if you can spot the different details in each of the seventeen photographs!



*The artwork for our movie-style posters and some of our exhibit displays were created by our graphics contractor, Justin Weiss. We are very pleased and proud of the way these pieces reflect our purpose and our mission at the NMHFM.*

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## Educator's Corner

Happy 2018! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with their friends and family, and can start 2018 feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. At the NMHFM we are evaluating what worked last year and making plans for the new year! The education department has three primary focus areas: school group visitation, Scout group activities and visitation, and public programming.

In 2018, we will continue to build working relationships with

schools within a 70-mile travel radius for field trips.

We will also be creating an Education Resources tab on our website to provide a list of lesson plans and streamline the reservation process with smart forms.

We plan to increase the number of Boy Scouts who visit to earn their Mining in Society merit badge, and will develop programs for Girl Scouts to earn patches as well.

This year we want to increase our programming availability by having one planned activity each month for our group visits. Evaluations of these programs will be used to get visitor feedback on how we can improve.

We have a lot to look forward to, particularly with the monthly pro-

gram connected to our newest temporary exhibit, *Matchless: The Mine, The Myth, The Legend*. We have opportunities to flex our programming muscles and experiment with different kinds of events, including hands-on craft activities, a beer making demonstration, Victorian fashions, and film screenings.

We are also excited to announce that on April 7 there will be a family day of activities and games based on the book *Mineral Maniacs*. Author Jules Miles has graciously agreed to visit us in Leadville and read excerpts from her book while visitors play games, solve puzzles, **and solve a “mineral mystery” using NMHFM exhibits.**



Margaret Spiegel

Educational

Programming & Events

Coordinator

Email: Margaret@

mininghalloffame.org



Artwork by one of our young visitors.

Mark your Calendars!

*Mineral Maniacs*

*Family Day at the*

NMHFM

*Saturday, April 7*

*9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.*

*Book readings at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.*

*Games offered all day*

*Kids 12 and under are free with a paid adult admission.*

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## We Are Losing Our Mining Heritage in Leadville By Vincent Matthews, Ph.D. & Member, Board of Directors



*Ibx Hoist House in 2002. Quite restorable. (Image courtesy of Mining History Association)*

This structure was in an area that was ideal for historical preservation: the historic Little Jonny Mine; the interesting Hopemore Mine with its 600-foot-deep underground tour; the ghost towns of Ibx and

Buried under the collapsed hoist house is the massive, well-preserved cable and drum for lowering miners and equipment to the great depths of the Ibx #4. The cable drum was originally powered by steam and then converted to electricity. Both power mechanisms are still buried in the pile of lumber.

### Clear Grit Mine

The iconic cluster of buildings of the Clear Grit Mine were captured by artist Ted Mullings for the 1984 Boom Days Limited Edition Belt Buckle. The cone-topped water tower is particularly appealing.

A couple of decades ago, ASARCO mining engineers from

Some of us interested in **Leadville's historic mining** structures dread each spring when the snow melt reveals the ravages of the past winter. Each winter season appears to bring more and more damage to those few remaining structures in the Historic Mining District.

Ibx #4 shaft, Hoist House

During the past decade, we witnessed the slow collapse of the hoist house for the Ibx #4 mine shaft.



*Ibx Hoist House in 2009. Clearly falling apart, but still salvageable.*

Stumptown; the Irene Mineshaft; the spectacular, multicolored, mine-waste piles; the imposing ore bin; and the panoramic views of the majestic Mosquito Range. This area had already experienced the modern destruction of the nearby Fanny Rawlings Mine complex.



*Ibx Hoist House in 2016. Pretty much lost to Father Time.*



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## 2018 Calendar of Events

### Spring



Thursday, March 1, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

*Best Dressed Woman of the West: Victorian Fashion Trends with Judith Mulder*  
Free admission

Saturday, April 7, 2018  
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

*Mineral Maniacs Family Day at the NMHFM*  
Book Readings 11 am & 2 pm  
By author Jules Miles  
Games offered all day  
Kids 12 and under are free with a paid adult admission



**Mark Your Calendar!**

### Summer

Saturday, August 4, 2018  
12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

*Boom Days! Family Activities*  
Rock hounding, Gold Panning and other activities in & around museum  
Kids 12 and under are free with a paid adult admission.



### Fall

Thursday, October 4, 2018  
5:00 p.m.

*Baby Doe Mythbusting*  
Brenda Miller will debunk the myths as seen in the opera **“Ballad of Baby Doe.”**  
Bring your own food and drink.  
Free admission.

# The High Grade

## Leadville Mining Heritage, Cont. from page 6

the Black Cloud Mine stabilized several of the buildings. The red arrow points to a steel beam installed to stabilize the largest structure. However, the yellow arrow shows that the ravages of time and weather **don't** stop.



Clear Grit Mine, 2016.

How long will it be before all that is left of this picturesque scene will be a remembrance from **someone's worn-out** belt buckle?

### Matchless Mine

We are fortunate that the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum took over ownership and management of the Matchless Mine and cabin a little over a decade ago. Stabilization efforts

are ongoing. The visitor experience is greatly enhanced by new, attractive signage, knowledgeable docents, and by productive, historic research. With the loss of so many historic structures, the

Matchless stands out as a wonderful example of what can be achieved by historic preservation for future generations of Leadville visitors.



Close-up of 1984 Boom Days Buckle.



Restored Matchless Headframe.

## Traveling Exhibit, Cont. from page 1

mal—the cost of a thumb drive and postage. Organizations hosting the exhibit can keep it for as long as they desire and we will supply updates as new inductees enter the halls of fame each year. If an organization does not have the necessary software and equipment, it may be possible for the NMHFM to get a grant to purchase it. However, then the shipping costs would be higher to include the equipment and the exhibit would only come to the organization for a set length of time.

Organizations that already are, or will soon be, hosting the exhibit are the Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery at Penn State, the White Pine Public Museum in Ely, Nevada, the World Museum of Mining in Butte, Montana, the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Eckley Miners Village Museum in Weatherly, Pennsylvania.

An online version of the National Mining Hall of Fame is available at <https://mininghalloffame.org/inductees>. The traveling version looks better and is more interactive.

If interested in hosting the exhibit, please contact Stephen Whittington at [director@mininghalloffame.org](mailto:director@mininghalloffame.org) or call (719) 486-1229.

# The High Grade



## LeVier Honored with St. Barbara's Day Award



NMHFM Board of Governors Member Marc LeVier Receives St. Barbara's Day Award. Courtesy Colorado Mining Association

**“What better name than**

*Tabor, from Baby Doe*

*Tabor and the Matchless*

**Mine!”**

*Memorial Bequests, Continued from page 1*

Alexander (Bud) and Beverlee Wilson. Bud was a 2002 inductee into the NMHF.

Memorial gifts do not just happen, but take planning ahead of time. A will prepared by an

NMHFM Board of Governors member Marc LeVier was presented the St. Barbara's Day Award by the Colorado Mining Association (CMA), the Denver Gold Group (DGG) and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME) in December. LeVier is a metallurgical engineer who currently consults for mining companies through his company, K. Marc LeVier & Associates, Inc. Congratulations Marc!

LeVier is also an avid outdoorsman. A few years ago, to fulfill his

attorney can assure that your wish to support the NMHF, its mission, and work is fulfilled.

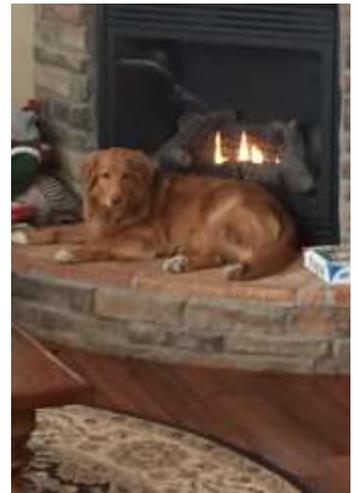
We encourage all of our members to ask your financial and legal

desire for a duck hunting companion, he chose a young Nova Scotia Duck Tolling retriever to brave the elements with him. LeVier and his fiancée named the retriever Tabor during some R&R time at home one evening. **“As a metallurgist, I wanted a hunting buddy to hunt with who reflected the Colorado mining industry history.”** said LeVier.

**“What better name than Tabor, from Baby Doe Tabor and the Matchless Mine!”**

Marc LeVier has served as a past president of

the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America (MMSA), is a longtime member of SME, including the Board of Directors, and is a current member of the NMHF Board of Governors.



Marc LeVier's "Matchless" Nova Scotia Duck Tolling retriever named Tabor.

advisors about how a bequest might be beneficial to your estate planning efforts. Adding bequests to your will helps to support the people and organizations you care about after you are gone.



Thomas Cherrier 1938-2017.



NATIONAL MINING  
HALL OF FAME  
AND MUSEUM

National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum

# The High Grade

Now Featured in our Gift Shop!



*Clockwise from upper left: Great new selection of books \$3.95—\$75.00; Marble works from Marble, Colorado; Walking and Hiking Sticks (Kids Version too!) \$19.95—\$37.95; Old and new furry friends \$8.50—\$19.95*

We are looking at the possibility of putting our gift shop items on the website for online shoppers. In the meantime, give us a call! Many of our items can be shipped to you for retail price plus postage!

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## New map room extension of gift shop

Inspired by questions and thoughts from recent visitors, some of our museum staff and volunteers have been busy putting together a new display of our mining map collection. Most of these maps, along with some historic photographs, have been released to us for reproduction and sale to the public. The Map Room extension to our gift shop was created for that purpose. Two of the maps in this collec-



tion are “birdseye” or “perspective” maps of Leadville, Colorado. This type of map shows an aerial view but was drawn by itinerant map-makers from the ground level. The amount of detail and precision used in these old maps is impressive.

NMHFM volunteer extraordinaire Fred Mark was instrumental in providing background information and captions (as well as assembling



frames) for these new additions.



## Farewell from Margaret Spiegel

Dear Friends,  
I want to thank you all for your continued support of the NMHFM and our exhibits, programs, and events. This is a unique place with an important mission and we could not continue without you. I have enjoyed being the Edu-

cational Programming and Events Coordinator and appreciate all of the experience and creativity this position provided. After being in Leadville these last twelve months, I am returning to the Midwest to accept a new position.

There are many wonderful people in Leadville and the NMHFM who I will miss dearly, but I am also excited to flex new muscles, face new professional challenges, and be closer to family.

Most sincerely,  
Margaret

# The High Grade



Museum is located at:  
120 W. 9th Street  
P.O. Box 981  
Leadville, CO 80461  
Phone: 719-486-1229

***“Tell the story about mining, its people & its importance to the American public.”***

A federally chartered non-profit, located in the famous 1880s silver boomtown of Leadville, Colorado at the top of the Rocky Mountains, the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum is a monument to the memory of the men and women who pioneered the discovery, development, and processing of our nation's natural resources.

Matchless Mine & Baby  
**Doe's Cabin:**  
1.25 miles east of the  
museum on 7th Street  
Phone: 719-486-1229

**Known as the “Smithsonian of the Rockies” and the “Premier Showcase of American Mining,”** the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum was established in 1987. Our building was built in 1899 and was formerly the Leadville High School. Our museum houses 25,000 square feet of interactive and informative exhibits showcasing our collection of mining's colorful past, present, and future.



Email:  
Info@mininghalloffame.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
MININGHALLOFFAME.ORG



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