



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Effigy Mounds  
National Monument

151 HWY 76  
Harpers Ferry, IA  
52146-7519  
[www.nps.gov/efmo](http://www.nps.gov/efmo)

## Effigy Mounds News Release

**Release date: Immediate**

**Contact(s): Ken Block**

**Date: 03/27/2009**

**Phone number: 563.873.3491 Fax number: 563.873.3743**

### **Effigy Mounds National Monument to Celebrate Multiple Anniversaries**

This year marks three important anniversaries that will be celebrated at Effigy Mounds National Monument: the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national park movement in Iowa; the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Effigy Mounds National Monument; and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa.

On April 6th, 1909, Clayton County State Representative George H. Schulte proclaimed in an address to the Iowa General Assembly that the people of Iowa desired a national park to be established in northeastern Iowa. For the next forty years, citizens, elected officials and state employees worked to create a national park, and were finally rewarded with the establishment by Harry S. Truman's presidential proclamation of Effigy Mounds National Monument on October 25, 1949.

Effigy Mounds will celebrate the "Dawn of a Park: The Centennial of the National Park Movement in Iowa," April 4 – 6 with the unveiling of a new formal museum exhibit chronicling the history of the Upper Mississippi River Valley from its early inhabitants through the first explorations into the area. This is the first new museum exhibit in twenty years and will feature archive pieces never before seen by the public. A new temporary exhibit in the lobby of the visitor center will portray the varied persons and events instrumental in the establishment of Effigy Mounds National Monument as a unit of the National Park Service.

- more -

The 46th Annual Winter Film Festival will also reach its finale with the feature film “Searching for Paradise” from BBC’s Atlas of the Natural World - Land of the Eagle series. This film documents the discovery and exploration of California by the Spanish. Featuring magnificent landscapes and natural beauty, these resources exemplify many of the reasons behind the establishment of a National Park Service to protect and preserve spectacular regions of the United States. Show times for the film will be 10:00, 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>. The film times will also show at 10:00, 11:00 a.m., and 12 noon on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, but show times on Sunday afternoon will be adapted to fit with other anniversary programs. An additional showing will be on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00p.m.

On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, the monument will hold special programs and provide refreshments to the public. At 1:00 p.m., there will be a special ranger presentation in the auditorium that will feature some of the untold stories behind the anniversary and related exhibits.

Following the presentation, interested visitors will be invited to join in on a “ranger car caravan” to Pikes Peak State Park and the Sny Magill unit of the monument. This trip will include short walks of no more than ½ mile round trip on mostly level surfaces to allow for those not able to hike the steep trails of the monument. At each location, brief discussions will highlight the efforts of Iowans to set aside land and create a national park site. If weather or river conditions do not permit the visit to Sny Magill, alternative arrangements have been made to visit other easily accessible mound groups within the monument.

Additional anniversary events will occur throughout the year, and dates for these events will be publicized and posted on the monument’s web site as they are confirmed. In October, the Monument will celebrate its actual anniversary date, October 25, 1949 with a special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Moonlight Hike on October 24 and other activities the next day. New visitor center displays and special programs and talks will be featured throughout the year.

For more information on the park and other upcoming events, or a digital image to accompany this press release, visit us online at [www.nps.gov/efmo](http://www.nps.gov/efmo) or call the visitor center at (563) 873-3491. Effigy Mounds National Monument's visitor center is located three miles north of Marquette, Iowa and 22 miles south of Waukon, Iowa on HWY 76.

- nps -