

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT 2015

196 Main Street - PO Box 679 - Windsor VT 05089 - 802-674-5781 - www.americanprecision.org

Shaping America Now Open

haping America, a new exhibit on display through October 31, 2016, explores how the machinists and tool builders of this region's "Precision Valley" influenced the course of American history, helping drive rapid industrialization, the emergence of the United States as a world power, and the development of our consumer culture. This opening signals the completion of our multi-year exhibit project supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and other generous supporters.

Gridley Automatic Lathe Windsor Machine Co., 1900

Windsor is known as the "cradle of precision manufacturing" and developments here led to the founding of the machine tool industry in America. That industry in turn led to mass production, which makes possible mass communication, rapid transportation, modern standards of sanitation and medical care, abundant food and clothing, and the leisure for universal education.

After the Civil War, inventors and workmen from Windsor took their skill and machines to Remington Arms (who later made typewriters), Brown & Sharpe (makers of exquisitely accurate measuring tools), Columbia (makers of bicycles and autos), the Jones & Lamson Company (at mid-twentieth century, known for fine machine tools), Cadillac Automobiles, and Pratt & Whitney (who would eventually make aircraft engines).

When you visit the exhibit, you will see the Gridley Automatic Lathe designed by George Gridley in Windsor. It was one of several machines critical to the emerging auto industry. You will also see the Cone Automatic, also developed in Windsor in response to increased production demands during World War I.

The exhibit also features the people who operated machines that helped win two World Wars. Wearing bloomers, earning high wages, and learning new skills, Vivian Wilson was just one of 100 women who worked at Jones & Lamson in Springfield, Vermont, during World War I.

You will be able to listen to oral history interviews with people who spent their lives in the local machine tool industries. Bob Ingalls recounts his work during World War II when he was one of 7,000 people employed in Springfield, which, according to local folklore, Hitler had on his top ten list of U.S. cities to bomb. On display is the famous Norden bombsight that contained an analog computer measuring altitude, trajectory, and air and wind speeds to calculate the optimum moment to drop a bomb.

The exhibit ends with the advent of computer controlled machinery. Ben Holleran, former working machine shop intern and now a member of APM's Board of



Trustees, is developing an exhibit interactive that demonstrates how early punched tape directed the motions of machines. Throughout the exhibit, QR codes will point the visitor to videos that show the machines in motion or connect them to new innovations and applications. We are excited to be using new technologies to tell the evolving story of American manufacturing. We look forward to your visit this season!

In this edition...

- Honor Roll of Donors
- 50 Years and Counting
- Calendar of Events
- Message from the Director and more...

Message from the Executive Director - Ann Lawless



How can we create a new generation of kids who are no longer passive users of technology, but instead are thinkers and makers? That's what happened here in Windsor. It's our heritage and it's the challenge Sarah Rooker, Director of New Initiatives, took on as she developed our new Learning Lab and related programs.

Sarah approaches APM's mission as an educational nonprofit by building her work on research. She read about educational philosophy and STEM applications, visited top museum

maker spaces - MIT, Peabody-Essex, and the Montshire, and took a course to learn coding.

Her goal has been to create an environment at APM where kids can be unencumbered and filled with possibility, able to collaborate, and have opportunities to share their work with others.

Our new Learning Lab, launched in May 2015 is the place where it all happens, thanks to the Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation, Hypertherm Hope Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Prominent in our lobby, it is in year-round use by school groups; an after-school tinkering club; for family maker days; and as a drop-in space for adults relaxing after touring exhibits. It's the base from which our young participants share their knowledge at our Model Engineering Show and Maker Space in October.

"The museum had a successful year. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm of our visitors and donors."

Learning Lab initiatives reach beyond the museum as well. We played a leading role in a manufacturing-school-partnership getting kids out of the classroom to envision amazing careers in manufacturing. Sarah co-coached Windsor High School's 3D Architecture team which won the statewide competition two years in a row!

What's next? Our historic site, located on Mill Brook, provides the background for new STEM initiatives focused on water. In May, students will be building a submersible robot to monitor silt buildup behind Windsor's 1840 Ascutney Mill Dam, affecting municipal infrastructure and public safety. In July, we host a teacher institute on waterpower, using Windsor's Mill Brook to explore civic, historical and environmental approaches to learning.

Tune in to Sarah's blog http://apmlearning.blogspot.com/ as she reflects on changing student aspirations and behaviors.

Our Mission: To capture the imaginations of young and old with the spirit of innovation, problem solving, and design demonstrated through the dynamic story of the machines and people which form the foundation and future of the manufacturing industry in America.

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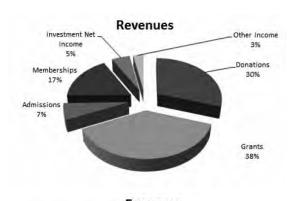
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Financial Information

The charts below reflect Revenues and Expenses for APM's fiscal year, May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015. The condensed balance sheet is available as a PDF from the APM website. A link is on the home page.





Complete financial statements with accompanying notes and opinions are available at the museum office or by request. Note: The other expenses line item includes \$30,001 classed as bad debt. This grant, recorded as income in a prior year, was taken off the books this year due to uncertainty as to whether it would be received. We expect to receive it in the coming year.

Some Stats for the Fiscal Year

- 4,589 people visited the museum
- 733 students toured the exhibits
- 18 current members live in California
- 2 current members live in Alaska
- 3 current members live in Texas
- APM is the only museum dedicated to the history of manufacturing.

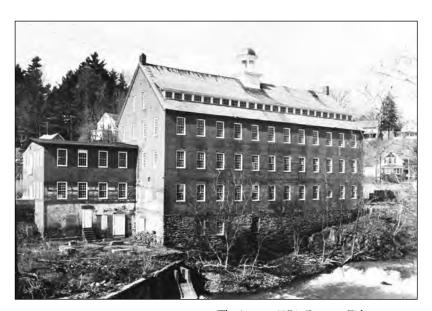
Message from the Chair of the Board Eric Gilbertson

Fifty years ago Ed Battison started the American Precision Museum because he thought it was important to collect, preserve and exhibit the history of the American machine tool industry. Ed left us with an extremely important legacy that presents us with large challenges. These challenges include taking care of a National Historic Landmark building and a collection that rivals that of the Smithsonian. We need to use that foundation to attract and educate people about the past, present and future of the American machine tool industry.

The museum is better organized to move forward than it has been in the recent past. This Spring we open a new exhibit, Shaping America, and we will repair the flood damaged outdoor interpretive area. Production of a new video on the Evolution of Manufacturing is underway including APM's history and students working on STEM projects in the museum. The Development Committee is up and working on improving fund raising; the Education Committee is exploring new ways to get information out to the public, and especially to young people. So we made great progress last year, making the future look a lot better. Thanks so much to the staff and the Board for moving us forward.

Board work is critical to the success of the American Precision Museum. Growing participation in the Executive Committee, the Development Committee and the Education committee are good signs for the future. We are always looking for new board members who can enhance the knowledge, ideas and outreach that will move APM on to greater success in the future. Members can help too, and are welcome to come to any meeting. We already have some great volunteers who really make the place work.

Raising enough money to keep us going and improving is the most critical challenge for the Museum. So please help us with contributions, contacts and suggestions on how we can continue what Ed started 50 years ago.



The Armory 1974, Courtney Fisher



How do you start and sustain a museum?

It's a complex undertaking, with decisions on what to collect, who is the audience, what exhibits and programs to best engage them, caring for the collections and facility, and how to build funding that sustains it all. It takes a visionary founder and dedicated people to continue the effort. Today we salute those who came before us — trustees, staff, volunteers, supporters — and those who are carrying us into the future.

Edwin A. Battison founds the museum and becomes its first director. The United States Department of the Interior designates the Robbins & Lawrence Armory a National Historic Landmark. 1966



APM exhibits for the first time at the International Manufacturing Technology Show, IMTS, in Chicago. 1976 John Ordyk donates an 1861 Lamson, Goodnow & Co, Windsor VT screw milling machine. This is the oldest existing and accurately dateable machine of its type. 1986

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers recognizes APM as the First International Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site and Collection. 1986



Dot and Robert Morris, 1979

In appreciation of generous gifts of Mrs. Dorothy Morris, the APM East Wing is re-dedicated in the name of her late husband, Robert E. Morris. 1992

Tools & Technology

Newsletter begins

publication in 1977.

Roberto Rodriquez is appointed Executive Director, 1991

1966



Vermont Governor Phil Hoff was among the dignitaries at opening day. 1966



An early exhibit of typerwriters

APM's first publication, Muskets to Mass Production: The Men and The Times that Shaped American Manufacturing, by Edwin A Battison, establishes a tradition of scholarship and publication. 1976



Kendall Mechanism

Miniature Machine Tools, created by John Aschauer, were loaned by the Machine Tool Institute for exhibit and were later given to APM in 1990. Note: Aschauer spent 40,000 hours making these working scale models. 1979



Aschauer at work

Maxfield Parrish

– Machinist,
Artisan, Artist is
the first thematic
exhibit and links
art with machines.
It draws a large
audience, 1995



The mask, gear mechanism and the gnome cutout, by Parrish, shown in the exhibit.



Institute of Museum and Library Services grants and major gifts enable creation of the first professional collections manager and assistant collections manager positions. Strides made in recordkeeping, care, storage, and creating a collecting plan. 2005 – 2012

APM creates a Working Machine Shop as the centerpiece of the exhibit hall, to be staffed each summer with high school student interns demonstrating for visitors, 2008

Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) completes a **Study of the Armory** during its period of significance 1846-1856. Reprinted by APM, it includes photos, and conjectural drawings of the waterpower system in the basement that powered machinery on the upper floors. 2009

APM sets up its first web site, and publishes a special issue of **Tools & Technology** celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Robbins & Lawrence Armory, along with the Museum's 30th anniversary. 1996



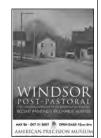
Model Engineering Show

APM hosts the first **Model Engineering Exhibition** in the cradle of the American machine tool industry, 2000 The Robbins & Lawrence Armory is declared an "official project" of Save America's Treasures, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service, thus opening the door to new preservation funding opportunities. 2001



Working Machine Shop

Windsor Post PastoralPaintings by Charlie Hunter exhibit opens. 2007



Shaping America exhibit opens. 2016

The Tool Revolution exhibit opens. 2015

1996

Heritage Preservation funded Conservation Assessments of the Armory building and collections to assist with planning and setting priorities for preservation and care. 1999

Dedication of Rothchild Park, honoring Margaret Rothchild, APM's first female Board Chairperson. 1998



Pedal Power: The Bicycle in Industry and Society by Carrie Brown is published. 1999

Doodles Drafts and Designs, an exhibit from Smithsonian, opens. 2007

Intense preservation activity funded by major federal, state and foundation grants, and individual gifts, saw the Armory building removed from the National Historic Landmarks threatened list. APM completed installation of a new slate roof, restoration of 130 historic wood windows, structural assessments and repairs, safety improvements, a masonry plan and masonry restoration. 2003-2012

Arming the Union and Full Duty: The Civil War Collection of Howard Coffin open. 2012

Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 wrecked the new outdoor interpretive area dedicated to the memory of Dorothy Morris. It will be rebuilt in 2016.



Pam Daley is appointed Executive Director. 1998 Matthew White is appointed Executive Director. 1999

Nancy Beaudoin is appointed Executive Director. 1999

Shirley Grainger-Inselburg is appointed Acting Executive Director. 2000

Peter Smithhurst is appointed Executive Director. 2001

Howard Fairman is appointed Interim Director. 2002

Ann Lawless is appointed Executive Director. 2003-present

Calendar of Events 2016

EXHIBITS

Shaping America

This year we open the final sections of the exhibit. From the tool revolution of the 1800s to advanced manufacturing today, technical innovation has shaped who we are and how we live.



Shaping Consumer Culture

In the years following the Civil War, the tools of armory practice were put to work making consumer goods. As new products emerged, toolmakers improved their own tools and techniques to meet new needs. As new goods became more complicated, the accuracy of the tools became even more important.



Photo Credit: First Light Studios

Industrial Might

Machine tools served as the backbone of American industry. They were used in plants that built automobiles, airplanes, and a vast selection of consumer products. Tool companies prospered during boom times, grew rapidly to meet the needs of the First World War, and struggled along with the rest of the country during the Great Depression.



Vivian Wilson at Jones & Lamson, Springfield, VT during WWI

A great surge in productivity helped win the Second World War. During the Cold War, machine tool designers began to experiment with computer-control of machinery and with computer-assisted design for cutting tools.

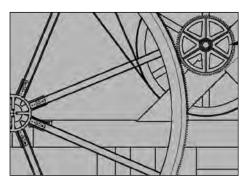
The Tool Revolution (opened 2015) tells the story of how ingenious mechanics here in the 1840s forged an industrial America by creating one of the best gun-making operations in the world. They created a center of innovation, doing some of the best, high-tech work of the day.

Arming the Union (opened 2012)

This site played a critical role in outfitting the Union Army during the Civil War. The majority of the I.5 million rifles made for the war were made using machinery designed and produced here. Learn about the workers, the weapons and machines that made those weapons, and how the precision tool industry began to serve as the backbone of American industrial and military power.

Waterwheel and Millwork

Drawings explains how a massive waterwheel in the basement of this brick factory building diverted water from the Mill Brook to power machines using a complex systems of gears, shafts, and pulleys.



PROGRAMS

Sunday, July 24 2:00 pm Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War

One hundred years ago America was embroiled in World War I. Women rolled up their sleeves and entered war industries where they had never been welcome before. Carrie Brown explores how these women helped shape the work that their more famous daughters would do in the next World War.



Saturday, August 6 5:30 – 7:30 pm 50th Anniversary Reception and Celebration of Shaping America

Join us for birthday cake and a celebration of APM's newest exhibit that tells the story of how manufacturing shaped America.

Sunday, August 14 1:00 pm

Family Maker Day: Hack your Toys

Put on your safety glasses, grab a screwdriver, and take apart old toys. See how they work, scavenge parts, and use your ingenuity to make something new.



September 24 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day

Free admission at participating museums all across the country with the Smithsonian Day pass, obtainable online or in the Smithsonian magazine.



Behind the Scenes Tours at 2 pm and 3pm (reservations required, 12 per tour, \$10.00 each)

September 24 11:00 am – 3:00pm Antique Car Rally

Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts will be stopping at the museum as part of their 2016 'run'. Visitors will be able to see a fabulous collection of vintage automobiles with their owners. VAE, founded in 1953, is one of the oldest car clubs in the Northeast.



October 3 – 7 Upper Valley Manufacturing Week

APM coordinates student tours of manufacturing companies throughout the region during this week-long workforce development program.



Admission

Members free
Adults \$8
Students \$5
Kids under 6 free
Family \$20
Admission by Donation on
SUNDAYS

Special Group Rates Call for details

Hours

Open daily 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Memorial Day weekend through October.

Visit our Facebook page



Sign Up for our Monthly eNewsletter @ americanprecision.org

Saturday, October 22 9:00 am – 4:00 pm 17th Annual Model Engineering Show & Maker Space, Windsor Recreation Center and the museum

Admission to both:

\$10 for adults

\$5 for students

Visit with New England's finest model engineers, attend workshops and watch live demonstrations.





Blue Star Museums is a partnership among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, Joining Forces, MetLife Foundation, and museums across the country. From Memorial Day to Labor Day we offer free admission to all active duty National Guard and Reserve military personnel and up to five family

members.

2015 Report on Giving

hank you to our many contributors who support the museum. Every gift we receive is important. The gifts listed here were received between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Your contributions come in many ways – membership, annual and special purpose gifts, gifts in-kind, and those made in honor or in memory of a loved one. We also thank our volunteers who give time and talent to the museum's operations, the board of trustees, and working committees. We received 223 gifts to the Annual Fund, 288 Members joined or renewed, and 11 corporate memberships renewed. Special thanks to Thomas and Barbara Putnam for providing matching funds to any new membership or new donation received to help support exhibits. If a donor is also a member, one of these membership abbreviations will follow his/her name: CM - Corporate Member; LM - Life Member; SM - Steward; PM - Patron; AM - Associate; FM - Family; and IM - Individual. Please let us know if we have made any errors in our listing of our donors and members.

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Thank you to all our donors, members. and volunteers.

Make Your Mark on History

Consider joining the Museum's Legacy Society during our 50th Anniversary Year

Would you like to ensure that APM will be here for future generations to enjoy? You can do that with a planned gift. The most common planned gift is a charitable bequest, naming the museum as a beneficiary. Is the museum already in your estate plans? If so, thank you.

We partner with the Vermont Community Foundation on Charitable Gift Annuities and other planned gifts. If you would like to discuss planned giving options, please call Frank Hoffman, Development Director at 802-674-5781.

Reitman