



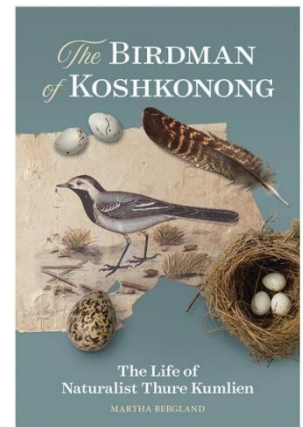
MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

SATURDAY, MAY 8 – 2 PM --THE BIRDMAN OF KOSHKONONG

Don't miss the next SAHSWI ZOOM meeting. SAHSWI Board member and award-winning author **Martha Bergland** will present excerpts from her book **The Birdman of Koshkonong** published by Wisconsin Historical Society Press. The book describes the life of Naturalist **Thure Kumlien**.

Thure Kumlien was one of Wisconsin's earliest Swedish settlers and an accomplished ornithologist, botanist, and naturalist in the mid-1800s. He settled on the shore of Lake Koshkonong in 1843 and soon began sending bird specimens to museums and collectors in Europe and the eastern United States, including the Smithsonian. Later, he prepared natural history exhibits for the University of Wisconsin and became the first curator of the new Milwaukee Public Museum.

With the same keen eye and careful study that Thure Kumlien himself employed, Martha Bergland lifts the enigmatic man from the specimen drawers of history, restarts his heart, and sends him soaring. The sacred brotherhood of Increase Lapham, John Muir, Sigurd Olson, and Aldo Leopold has a new member."—B.J. Hollars



To join the Zoom meeting, go to [SAHSWI.org/updates](https://www.sahswi.org/updates) and look for the link. Or watch for the email invitation from Jan.

MIDSOMMAR 2021—The Board is working with Heidelberg Park and the Covid restrictions to determine if it is feasible to have Midsommar this year. The decision will be made by mid-May, so please check the web for up-to-date information or call a board member.

DID YOU KNOW?

The modern-day zipper as we know it was improved upon and developed by Swedish-American inventor Gideon Sundbäck from an earlier less effective model in 1913. Sundbäck's newly redesigned version called the 'separable fastener' was patented in 1917 and features interlocking teeth pulled together and apart by a slider.



NORDIC COUNCIL—After conferring with the member groups and receiving feedback from vendors, the Council met on April 27 and agreed to cancel plans for 2021 Scandinavian Fest. The Council did, however, agree on October 1 for the 2022 Scandinavian Fest, provided that the venue is available on that date. On the next page is the letter that Liza Ekstrand sent to participants:

Dear Festival participants,

It is with the outmost regret that we, the Nordic Council of Wisconsin, are announcing the cancellation of the October 2, 2021 Scandinavian Festival.

The survey results we conducted, resulted in approximately 20% of our vendors being willing to return this year, with the reservation that all applicable restrictions from the CDC or local agencies being followed. We had about 45% saying no to 2021, but willingness to participate in 2022. The rest of the surveyed group did not respond, which likely means they are not planning for 2021.

It would not be fair to festival goers, if we could only provide about 20% of a festival, let alone that the food vendors were not able to return this year. Mostly due to restrictions of how food could safely be prepared, served, and difficulty in estimating the number of meals that would be needed.

If our audience would be disappointed in a very lean festival, with few opportunities to purchase merchandise, and no ethnical food to experience, we may hurt our reputation of an interesting, educational, and fun festival in the future. Our fear in continuing with the plans of the 2021 festival would be to be forced to cancel just before the date of the event. There are still too many "Covid unknowns" at this time. Everyone would also have endured too many fixed expenses by that time.

That said, we really appreciate your responses and previous support and participation, and willingness to come back in 2022. We are hoping for a very strong comeback festival in October of 2022, and will keep everyone informed about that as we go along. Please understand, and be safe!

NAME THE COSTUME--

Can you find the costume that represents your heritage? Clues will be found on page 3.



Den Allmänna Svenska National Dräkten

This folk costume was allegedly designed around 1900 by the world famous artist, Carl Larson, from the province of Dalarna and his fellow countryman, Gustaf Ankarcrone, from the province of Småland. It was intended to fill the need for a costume representative of the entire nation.



In its original form, the dress consisted of a blue skirt and red vest worn with a yellow apron. The apron and vest were embroidered with daisies. In the current version both skirt and vest are the same shade of vibrant blue and worn with the traditional yellow apron, colors symbolic of the Swede's venerated National Flag.

SWEDISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN, INC.
 Jan Ehrengren, President; George Lofgren, Vice-President;
 Barbara Froemming, Treasurer; Joann Kreimendahl, Secretary
 Directors: Martha Bergland, John Elliott, Karin Konrad

WALPURGIS EVE AND MAY DAY—APRIL 30/MAY 1

Choral singing is a popular pastime in Sweden, and on Walpurgis Eve virtually every choir in the country is busy. In many villages and neighborhoods, bonfires are lit at dusk, and people gather to experience that rosy red glow in the face from the heat of the fire and the freezing cold at the back. The spring sun may keep people warm, but when it sets the nights are still chilly.



Once the fire dies, many people move on to pubs and restaurants or to friends’ parties. The fact that Walpurgis Eve is followed by 1 May – a public holiday in Sweden since 1939 – means that people are not afraid of partying into the night.

Those who wish to can sleep throughout the following day, while others mark this traditional workers’ day of leave by joining one or other of the May Day demonstrations that parade through the streets of their town or village.

THE SWEDISH AMERICAN INSTITUTE—

The ASI continues to provide us with unique exhibits, both on-site and through the internet. Two of the new exhibits feature the work of Stina Wirsèn, who is one of Sweden’s best-known illustrators and has written and illustrated many children’s books and animations. She has also illustrated for various fashion brands, department stores, newspaper and magazines, restaurants and commercial advertising campaigns. Stina has been granted many awards.

ABOUT WATER, SKY AND ME

This exhibit is designed for family groups to reserve a time for their children to play and explore in an imaginative world, with the assurance that they will be in a safe environment.

PAPIER

In the second exhibit, Papier, Stina Wirsèn collaborates with Bea Szenfeld, who is a Swedish artist known for experimentation with unconventional material and fabric. Using scissors, tape, staples, needle and thread, she creates pieces that are both bold and delicate. Their work together is described as uniting ‘Bea Szenfeld’s spectacular sculptural paper fashions with Stina Wirsèn’s evocative illustrations.’



The U.S. debut and tour is organized in collaboration with the House of Sweden, Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C.

Again, you can tour this exhibit online – just go to www.asimn.org

KEY TO COSTUMES—(from the Swedish-American Year, 1983 Edition)

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Skåne | 7. Södermanland |
| 2. Skåne | 8. Dalarna |
| 3. Uppland | 9. Småland |
| 4. Uppland | 10. Bohuslån |
| 5. Halland | 11. Öland |
| 6. Västergötland | 12. Lappland |

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