

# *HIGH DESERT VOICES*

June 2017

*News and Information published by and for Volunteers*

## **A Community Celebrates the High Desert Museum's 35th Anniversary**

*by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor*



More than 35 years ago, Museum founder Don Kerr had a dream of creating a place that recognized the wonders of the high desert culture, history, and natural environment. In 1982, after years of hard work, that dream became a reality. On May 12, 2017, over 400 people attended an event at the Museum recognizing its many contributions to the community since its humble beginnings.



Visitors celebrated the event by sampling a wide variety of local food and beverages. There were more than a dozen stations set up to sample beverages. You had your choice of beer, cider, Kombucha, or liquor. Food choices ranged from vegan tacos to barbecued meat sandwiches. Colorfully decorated cupcakes were offered for dessert. There was a festive tone to the event as live music played in the background.

Though light snowfall fell outside, the Lazinka sawmill demonstration proceeded on schedule. Visitors were impressed by how effortlessly the saw seemed to slice through the large logs. Meanwhile interpreters in the Miller Farm cabin huddled around the cook stove to keep warm. A fortunate few volunteers were lucky to get a taste of a freshly-baked cookie from the cabin's oven.







There were two lectures presented by staff from The Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon. One was about high desert archaeology from the past 15,000 years and the other was about what ancient basketry told us about the lifestyles of the first Oregonians. Some of the oldest artifacts have been found in the Desert West of North America. The dry climate has helped preserve the many items discovered. The 9,500-year old sagebrush sandals discovered in Fort Rock Cave are so well known they are referenced by media throughout



the world. Artifact's origins can be determined by looking at the materials and construction styles. There was a pride in community in the items created - a tradition that has been carried on to this day.

This Museum event was a big success. Thanks to the many sponsors that made it possible and for the help from staff and volunteers.



Photos by Todd Cary, Heather Duchow, and Siobhan Sullivan

### Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Otter Brother Jonny Goddard

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in May. **Muriel Carbeiner** was thanked for giving a wonderful tour of the vaults to another volunteer. **Abbott Schindler** was thanked for providing information on how past exhibits have been documented through photographs and video. **Steve Tosi** and **Shannon Campbell** were thanked for their part in creating the special nametag for volunteer **Jonny Goddard** that shows he is an official "Otter Brother." Thanks to all of the **staff and volunteers** that helped out at the 35th anniversary celebration - especially those who had to work outside in the, sometimes, snowy conditions! **By Hand Through Memory staff** were moved to a new office. Their flexibility was appreciated. **Shannon Campbell** was thanked for procuring 250 copies of a Smokey Bear comic book for the Ranger Station. **Laura Ferguson** was thanked for the lecture presented to more than 50 servicemen affiliated with the Central Oregon chapter of the Military Officer Association of America. **Jessica Stewart** did an excellent job giving a presentation on reptiles at the A6 Studio & Gallery. Congrats on her upcoming wedding taking place at the Museum. Kudos to all of you!



Photo by Lee Schaefer

### High Desert Voices

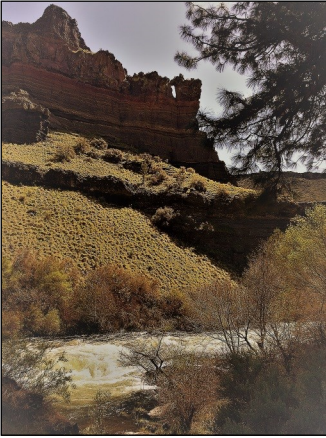
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## Forged in Fire and Water

### *A Geology Hike to Alder Springs and the Confluence of Whychus Creek and Deschutes River*

by Imelda A. Cerillo, Newsletter Writer



I scaled the third highest mountain in the Philippines, Mt. Pulog at 9,600 ft. above sea level, when I was in my twenties. After two more treks to the summit of that beloved mountain famous for its “sea of clouds and the view of the Milky Way at dawn,” here I am in Central Oregon, some thirty years hence, challenging my aching limbs to another adventure. While Mt. Pulog soothed with its smooth undulating curves, Central Oregon’s Deschutes Formation exhilarated with its rugged rocks and sudden elevation changes.

On April 15, 2017, there were nine (9) of us eager beavers who joined the hike sponsored by the Deschutes Land Trust and led by Danielle McKay. From the top of the Crooked River National Grasslands, we went down into a canyon, hiked to Alder Springs, forded the chilly and fast-moving waters of the Whychus Creek and followed it to where it met the Deschutes River, had lunch there, and then headed back home. No big deal?...heck big deal!

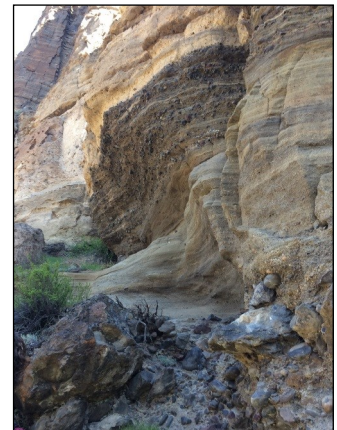
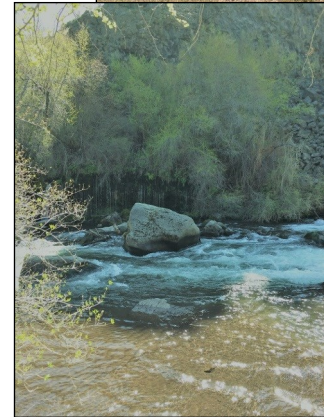
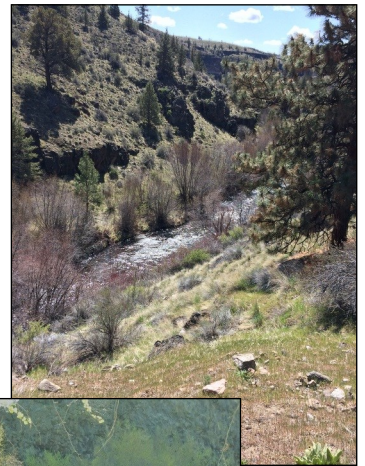
Physically, the hike was challenging! It was a 7-mile hike from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with an elevation gain/loss of 500 feet. More importantly, the geologic knowledge shared by Danielle was THE BIG DEAL for me as it inspired me to imagine a land before time. From high up on the Crooked River National Grasslands and looking down at a canyon, gasping for air with each step, I learned that the entire area within my vision (and beyond) was a basin surrounded by active volcanoes some 4 million to 7 million years ago. These volcanoes had various episodes of pyroclastic eruptions through time filling the basin with volcanic materials resulting in a sequence of colorful interstratified volcanic tuff and sedimentary rocks thus forming what we now know as the Deschutes Formation. So why are there canyons so steep they will make your head spin? Why is the basin not just filled up?

The romance is in the underground living water system that eats through the rocks and forms the canyons and caves. When this underground water system has eaten enough of the surface and goes above ground, meandering rivers and creeks, murmuring brooks and streams, or bubbling springs are formed. One can see the life of the underground water bubbling to the surface of Alder Springs.

And then... we were at the confluence of the mighty Deschutes River which made Whychus Creek seem meek. At this meeting place, rushing whitewater from the Deschutes River crashed through the huge rocks while Whychus Creek meekly joined in the flow creating a fairyland experience. Mini waterfalls along the path of the Deschutes River created a luminous curtain-like effect. An energy bar for lunch tasted like heaven in this surrounding.

Fire and water do not necessarily cancel out each other. Given time, fire and water can create unparalleled beauty together.

Photos by Imelda Cerillo



## Introducing Cathy Lang, Rimrock Café Manager

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



If you want to talk to Cathy Lang about her life and her work at the High Desert Museum, you better be ready to do it on her turf.

She had an “event” to get ready for, and she “had a lot of work” ahead of her.

Cathy’s workplace was a narrow hall-like space behind the Rimrock Café, a space jammed with industrial size mixers and slicers, 25-pound sacks of sugar, bins of flour, pots and pans of every description, a rickety stool, and a sink whose drain board served as a temporary desk.

Cathy is the manager of the Museum’s café, and she never stopped chopping tomatoes while she talked of her life. Other demands called her away, sometimes for minutes at a time.

Madison McCall, an employee on her fourth day on staff, also worked in the cramped space, wearing pink-lensed ski goggles as she chopped pounds of onions.

The event that kept the women busy was a buffet for 50 women who would visit the Museum on a tour the next day. Mixed into the work, Cathy talked about her life.

She was born in 1950 in Indiana, but her family moved to Houston when she was two. She lived there for the next quarter century, the youngest of six girls.

After high school, Cathy attended Texas A&M University, majoring in wildlife and fisheries with an eye on becoming a marine biologist. She went to work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on a vessel stationed in Dutch Harbor, about 800 miles southwest of Anchorage in the Aleutian chain. Her job was to monitor the catch of a mostly-Japanese fishing fleet.

The time at sea was in “three-month gigs,” she says. After nine months of that, “I was seasick, homesick, done!”

At 27, she returned to Houston and went to work in a restaurant as a server. She met a bus boy of Portuguese descent named Steve Freitas, and they hung out together.

“Pretty soon, he was the only person,” she says. Cathy has a big smile that brings small creases around her eyes and nose. She has no problems holding direct eye contact as she talks.

“Steve and I were best friends for about five or six years,” she says, “then we eloped to St. Johns in the Caribbean, and got married.”

After their island adventure, the couple settled in New York City, where Steve went back to work in a restaurant. Cathy became a Pan American flight attendant on international routes. For three years in the early 1990’s, she served flights to Europe, South America, and Africa. “I really enjoyed it,” she says.

Steve and Cathy moved to San Francisco, and both worked in the restaurant business for the next 10 years.

“I was almost 40,” she says. “I never wanted kids, and Steve didn’t either. Then I changed my mind.”

She brought up the subject with Steve. His reaction: “Absolutely!” A big smile lights up Cathy’s face.

In 2000 their son, Danny, was born, and the small family left the big city for the quieter Napa Valley. In 2002, Samantha came along and the family moved north again. This time to Bend.

“In every sense of the word, they are great teenagers,” Cathy says. She smiles again. “But they are teenagers....”

The family lives in a “small house tucked away behind St. Charles,” Cathy says. Steve works at the East Bend liquor store. Danny attends Mountain View High School; Samantha goes to Summit. Both kids volunteer at the High Desert Museum.

“We spend a lot of time together,” Cathy says. “They mean everything to me.”

“I love to be outside,” she says, and mentions hiking, camping, and river floating. “Sometimes I drag the kids along.”

As the Rimrock Café manager, she says, her job is to give every patron “the best experience possible.”

“After I make sure that everyone is safe,” Cathy says, “I make sure that everyone is happy.”

“I love everything about my job. I love being a part of something bigger than myself.”



## Events at the High Desert Museum

by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer



I have a thing for interesting venues – converted barns, the courtyard of a library, a car dealership. Wait, what? That’s right. A high school near my hometown held prom at the same car dealership every year. I know it sounds weird, but it wasn’t your average showroom. It was stone and brick, with high-end wood paneling that made it feel like a fancy club. It came to mind a few weeks ago when The High Desert Museum hosted the Mountain View High School prom.

Hearing about prom at the High Desert Museum reminded me that, as a new volunteer, I had looked around at the stone walls and pine pillars and wondered if the Museum was rented out for weddings. It turns out the Museum does have an almost secret life as an event venue. We tend to think of the Museum as the location of excellent exhibits and educational programs or as home to various high desert critters. Indeed, it is primarily those things. As Event and Facilities Manager Tyson Baird mentioned in his February 2016 newsletter profile, the High Desert Museum “is first and foremost a museum. It is an educational facility, and finally it is an events venue”... but what a beautiful and unusual venue it is!

Many volunteers have been to Museum-sponsored events such as lectures or volunteer appreciation programs. Internal events like these make up about two thirds of the events at the Museum.

External events, which account for a third of the events at the Museum, are often corporate parties or professional association gatherings. The Bend Chamber Holiday Party takes place at the Museum every year. The National Association of Counties -Western Interstate Region is meeting at Sunriver at the end of May, and they will have an off-site function at the Museum. The National Human Resource Management Association will also enjoy an evening at the Museum during their meeting in Bend in September. Added touches such as a greeter in living history costume or an interpretive encounter with a bird of prey are available for this type of event and can help make the occasion memorable.



The Museum makes a truly lovely wedding venue. Some couples exchange vows on the front patio. It is enchanting in summer or fall as early evening light filters through the trees. Other couples hold the ceremony in the Hall of Plateau Indians with the tipi as a backdrop. Here guests are seated between windows that look out on an impressive mountain alder on one side and an aspen oasis on the other. The Museum and grounds provide interesting photography backdrops for the couple and the wedding party. The classrooms work well as bridal prep rooms. The Collins Gallery makes an excellent dance club with the addition of a DJ and party lights. Young guests think the Museum is the best place for a wedding because they spend the entire time living it up in the *Whose Home* exhibit. The Museum has a lot to offer as a wedding venue. The Museum is booked for five weddings this spring and summer. Tyson would be happy to book a few more.



Tyson and his event staff of up to seven people (depending on the size of the event) have to move fast to get the space set up for an event. For weddings there is just an hour to transform the Museum into a ceremony and reception space. In this short time, linen-covered dining tables go up in the Schnitzer Entrance Hall and cocktail tables are placed on the front terrace. Rows of chairs are neatly arranged on the front patio or in the Hall of Plateau Indians. Caterers set up buffet tables and bartenders ready their stations. Decorations must also be put in place. An hour after the Museum closes, guests

take their seats and the ceremony begins.

In addition to the short transition time, the events team at the Museum has to manage a few things that other venues don’t. The porcupines are taken off-exhibit for all events. The bobcat gets some extra privacy from black draping in front of her atrium. Care has to be taken regarding exhibits if they are open. Concerns like these are part of the effort to strike a balance between booking events to generate revenue for the Museum and respecting the Museum’s primary focus: the animals, exhibits, and programs that call the Museum home.

Photos by Heather Duchow

June 2017

## Scat and Tracks Exhibit

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



At the entrance of the new *Scats and Tracks* exhibit, you can try your hand at filling in the blanks on a quiz related to some surprising facts about “poop.” Visit this part of the exhibit to find out more about rabbits and their droppings and how poop, otherwise known as scat, can power lights and flavor expensive coffee.

As you enter the exhibit hall, you will notice a tree to your left. You will learn why bears scratch trees, why elk rub their antlers on them, why cougars urinate on them, and how owls use them as perches when regurgitating their meals. Can you find the signs of these creatures on the tree?

There are interactive displays in this exhibit with various examples of tracks and scat. Tracks can differ in appearance in different substrates. You can try your hand at making prints in materials that mimic mud and other materials. Visitors can also make rubbings onto paper of various types of animal tracks. There is a quiz with various models of scat that you can try to identify. A light-splashed wall reflects the silhouettes of the shadow puppets that visitors move across the scene. There are many things to keep a young child busy in this exhibit.

Scientists can find a wealth of information in animal scat. Scat can be examined to determine exactly what an animal ate as well as their general health. Droppings can contain hormones that help scientists figure out things like if an animal is

stressed or if a female is pregnant.

Urine and scat are used in animal communication. It can contain scents that pass on messages that may be related to territory defense or hibernation timing. Scat and tracks also indicate where animals congregate in corridors to move to different parts of their range.

Experienced trackers can read signs to determine many things about the animal or person they are tracking. Humans have used tracking skills to hunt animals for thousands of years. Today radio telemetry is employed in conjunction with looking for signs of animals. Detailed information on an animal’s home range and life history can be collected through radio tracking and field work.

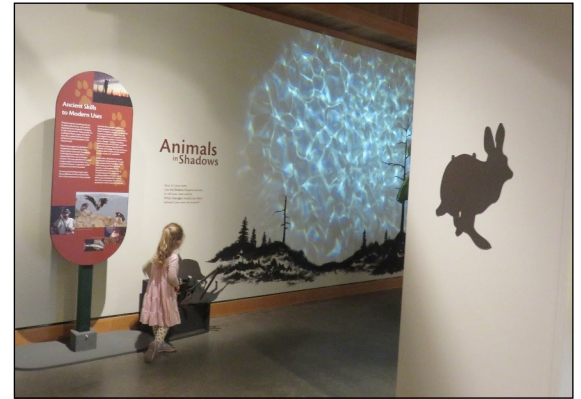
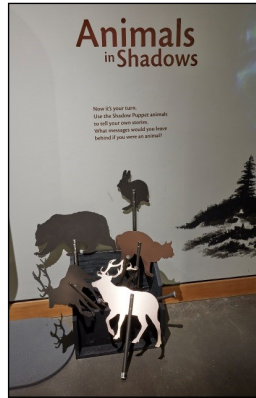


Trackers are sometimes used to track people that are lost or smuggling drugs. *Shadow Wolves* are specially trained trackers that work for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement division. Using methods handed down from their Native American ancestors, these trackers help hunt drug smugglers along the Arizona/Mexico border.



## Scats and Tracks - continued

This exhibit will educate and entertain both the young and the young at heart so be sure to visit it when you get the chance.



Photos by Abbott Schindler and Siobhan Sullivan

## High Desert Museum Area Updates from May 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

**Silver Sage Gift Store** – There is a new coffee mug that changes from a dark overall color to a colorful scene when hot liquid is poured into it. There are colorful bird feeders for sale. Large glass cutting boards feature artwork by Kathy Deggendorfer. Chocolate nut toffee called “Solar Eclipse Poop” will make an interesting gift. There are also eclipse-themed bookmarks and magnets. There is a nice nylon windbreaker with the Museum logo on it available. Jewelry is always a hot seller at the store and there are some new pieces featuring sunstone.

**Ranger Station** - The station will be open on weekends beginning in June and will be open every day beginning July 1. There will be a talk scheduled at the station at 1:00 pm. Last year Admissions/Greeters walked visitors out for some of the talks. There was a brief discussion about moving the building into the area where other Museum buildings are located. Due to the costs involved, it may not be relocated.

**Gallery Attendants** - They will be getting together soon for a meeting.

**Birds of Prey** - The Museum recently acquired two skunks but they are not on display yet. They will be a part of the *Desert Dwellers* program. Work is being done on the eagle pen that was damaged by snow last winter. The birds are currently in a temporary shelter.

**By Hand Through Memory** – There is a new volunteer learning about the area. She is of Native American heritage and the team is hopeful she will join them.

**Naturalists** – The team is “flush” with new members. The name has been changed for the guided walk. It is now referred to as a “Natural History Walk.” They are still looking into getting funding for a new moveable table used in interpretive talks.

**Mammals** - The talks on hooved animals will stop for the season and the talks on fish will soon take their place. There is a training session about the Fish Talks scheduled for May 17 at 9:00 am. Suggestions were made for signs near exits to outdoor exhibit areas. They could read “No Food Beyond This Point” or something similar. Visitors seem to be bringing more food to outdoor and indoor areas.

**Photography** - The Wildlife Photography Workshops have been very successful. Team members John Williams, Abbott Schindler, and Lee Schaefer have helped out at these events. Proceeds from the workshops go to the Museum. Work on photographing artifacts in Collections continues. There were four members of the Photography Team at the recent Museum 35th anniversary event. The Museum is appreciative of the team’s work and have used the photographs in hard copy and online media.

**Collections** – A 45-minute tour of the vaults for volunteers was discussed. Tours will be limited to ten or fewer individuals and may take place by teams. The tours will be lead by volunteers. More information related to these tours will be available in the summer.

**Admissions/Greeters** – There is a new, less expensive, admission rate for college students with student identification. Several mothers were pleasantly surprised to find out that admission was free on Mother's Day, May 14. Now that the Museum is a Smithsonian affiliate, plans are being made for reciprocal entrance fees. If you are interested, you will pay an additional fee on your High Desert Museum membership. At this time, the Evergreen Air Museum in McMinnville and the Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro are the only other Smithsonian-affiliated institution in Oregon.



*High Desert  
Museum, Inc.*  
59800 S. Highway 97  
Bend, OR 97702

2017



2017

**Kitchen Patrol:** Clean up after yourself

June	July - Save the Date!
6 <b>Museum Lecture:</b> <i>The History of Camp Abbot.</i> 1:30 pm. Free with Museum admission.	4 <b>Fourth of July.</b> Museum closed.
8 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>HDM: After Hours.</i> 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. No-host bar. RSVP.	8 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
14 <b>Museum Lecture:</b> <i>In Silence We Served with Honor.</i> 4:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	
17 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Vulture Venture: 5K Trail Run &amp; Walk.</i> 8:00 am. Registration and pricing information is available <a href="#">here</a> .	
17 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	
18 <b>Father's Day.</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Fathers admitted free.	
24 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Lazinka Sawmill Demonstration.</i> 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.	
26 <b>Museum Lecture:</b> <i>Making Outdoor School an Integral Part of the Learning Progression.</i> 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Free. Lunch provided. RSVP to <a href="http://www.onrep.forestry.oregonstate.edu/workshops">www.onrep.forestry.oregonstate.edu/workshops</a>	
26 <b>Museum Workshop:</b> <i>Creative Writing Workshop with Author and Creative Writing Teacher John Calderazzo.</i> 3:00 - 4:15 pm. RSVP.	To RSVP: <a href="http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp">www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp</a> or 541-382-4754
28 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Waterston Desert Writing Prize Award Ceremony.</i> 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Free. Hosted wine bar & hors d'oeuvres.	To pre-register: <a href="http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/program">www.highdesertmuseum.org/program</a>
30 <b>Museum Field Trip:</b> <i>Evening Bat Walk.</i> 8:30 - 10:00 pm. Members \$5, Non-members \$10. Registration and pre-payment required.	