

HIGH DESERT VOICES

May 2017

News and Information published by and for Volunteers

Volunteer Appreciation Happy Hour Event

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Tables quickly filled up at an event at the High Desert Museum on a recent rainy spring evening. People had gathered to recognize the contributions of volunteers at the Museum. Volunteers and staff gathered around the bar as they sipped on a variety of local beverages. A large buffet featured a salad, fruit, rolls, and baked potatoes with several choices of toppings.

Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Campbell welcomed volunteers with a short speech. She told volunteers how much they were appreciated and that this was a great opportunity for everyone to get together. She also thanked staff members who were attending the event and said how grateful she was

for everything they do. Executive Director Dana Whitelaw spoke next and she thanked staff and volunteers and said how much she “appreciated all of you for being here.”

Several Directors’ Awards were given out to volunteers. Todd Cary, Photography Team volunteer, was recognized as being one of many talented photographers serving the Museum. He can always be counted on to take photos at special events and occasions. His work on the Edward S. Curtis exhibit was especially appreciated. Mary Marson, volunteer at the Rimrock Café, was thanked for always having a warm and friendly smile. Her job of washing dishes and cleaning the café is not the most glamorous, but she deserves a special crown for doing the work well. Over Spring Break, there was a big increase in attendance and she helped out day after day. Bindy Beck-Meyer, behind-the-scenes volunteer, was recognized for helping out on a project this winter. She helped get rid of more than 100 pieces of old and outdated electronics equipment. Staff was very grateful for her support in this monumental task.





A new book that celebrates the Museum's 35th anniversary was featured during the evening. *Sagebrush Legacy* tells the story of the Museum and the habitats and history featured in its displays and exhibits. The book features photographs contributed by volunteers, staff, and community members. Communications staff involved in creating this book were thanked. Copies were provided to all of the volunteers. An upcoming event on May 12 to celebrate the Museum's anniversary already has more than 100 RSVP's.

The evening's activities concluded with a special thanks to events staff that helped make this gathering such a success.

Photos by Todd Cary & Siobhan Sullivan

High Desert Ranger Station Offers Summer Volunteer Opportunities

by Les Joslin, High Desert Ranger Station Team Lead



Again this summer, as they have since 2009, volunteers staffing the High Desert Ranger Station—the first thing High Desert Museum visitors see as they arrive—will share an important aspect of the Museum's story of the natural and cultural history of the Intermountain West. That's the story of how the Old West and its economy based on natural resource exploitation became the New West based on sustainable use and stewardship of natural resources.

All those cowboys, miners, loggers, and homesteaders whose stories are told at our High Desert Museum were making their livings by using natural resources: grazing lands for their cattle and sheep, minerals for many industries, timber for building homes and cities, and water for irrigation. When overuse, misuse, and conflict over use of those natural resources began to threaten their resource-based economies and ways of life, the American people and their government moved to conserve those resources through wise use that would sustain those economies. As part of that effort, forest reserves were set aside beginning in 1891; they became national forests in 2007. The U.S. Forest Service has been managing national forest

resources ever since. This old ranger station building—called the High Desert Ranger Station now—is the real thing and is set up to look how a ranger station looked about 1945, in a very different time not too long ago. It's the perfect place to tell this story, interpret the ranger station and the ranger's job, provide a wildfire prevention message, and answer visitors' questions.

This summer, you are invited to join the small team of U.S. Forest Service retirees and other High Desert Museum volunteers who will tell that story to High Desert Ranger Station visitors from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on June weekends and daily from July 1 through Labor Day. That's 73 days this summer. Yep, the High Desert Ranger Station team could use a few new volunteers to round out this team. You could be one of them!

Easily recognized in their forest green polo shirts, High Desert Ranger Station volunteers are individually scheduled by volunteer team lead Les Joslin based on each volunteer's availability and convenience. Les provides a full day of on-the-job orientation to each new volunteer, updates experienced volunteers, and serves days not scheduled for other volunteers. Volunteers pay for their own uniform polo shirts worn with regular blue jeans, proper belts, and footwear. Warm, green jackets for cool weather are provided.

For more information, please contact Les by telephone at 541-330-0331 (leave a message if no answer), by email at lesjoslin@aol.com, or by letter to him at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97703.

Photo by Les Joslin

Introducing Brett Ammann, Lead Central Services Technician

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



Most people who frequent the High Desert Museum don't see him, but without him the Museum would often be a mess. Literally.

Brett Ammann is the leader of a small group of men who keep the Museum clean, neat, and welcoming. Working with him are Scott Walker and Zachary Dowty. Their supervisor is Patrick Johnson, the Museum facilities manager. Brett and his crew work from late afternoon into the night.

He's a native Oregonian, born in Portland in 1961. His father, Carl, was a utility manager in Hillsboro; his mother, Bette, worked for Nike. He had three brothers and three sisters, whom Brett describes as "half, step, and otherwise." They attended Portland-area schools.

As Brett describes his life, he sounds a bit amused and a half-smile brightens his round face. Everything about him seems informal and friendly.

After graduation he worked in a series of restaurants, mainly in the Portland area, climbing as high as manager. "I always worked two or three jobs," Brett says.

He was working at Carl's Jr. when the company wanted to open franchises in Bend. In 1999, the company sent him to the high desert to help launch the stores.

He worked for Carl's Jr. for six years until the Bend stores changed hands.

"I love Bend," Brett says emphatically, so he decided to stay put.

Brett was married for 28 years, but says "I'm not anymore." The half-smile stays in place. He has a daughter, Nicole, and a son, Tyler, both living in Bend.

"I like it here," he says. "The kids settled in, and I wanted to stay."

He went to work for Arby's

Brett is not tall, not short; he's not thin but not heavy. His graying buzz cut makes him look friendly, like a favorite uncle.

For a time after Arby's, he worked at Central Oregon Community College, then for a cleaning company that specialized in homes and businesses. One of its clients was the High Desert Museum.

He liked the place. In February, 2016, he approached the Museum facilities manager, Patrick Johnson, who put Brett on full time.

"I love the people here," he says, "...the atmosphere." The "sane hours" give him time to camp a bit, travel a bit. "I'm kind of boring," Brett says, and his half-smile suggests he's OK with that.

Among his interests is genealogy. He traces his lineage back to a "tiny town" in Switzerland and to Norway. In the early years of the 20th Century, his maternal great grandparents resettled in Oregon from North Dakota and Indiana.

This time of year, Brett and his crew work 3:00 to 11:30 pm. In summer it shifts half an hour to end at midnight.

"We clean at night," he says, "...no obstacles."

Brett takes pride in his work. By the morning "after an event, like a wedding or a school prom," he says, "we make this place look like it did before the event."

In keeping with his tradition of multiple jobs, Brett also helps manage vacation homes in Sunriver. He clearly enjoys his life and his work at the High Desert Museum, though he admits he's looking forward to retirement in about nine years.

Photo by Dave Gilbert

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Staff members and a volunteer were thanked for their work in April. **Shannon Campbell and staff members** were thanked for their work putting together the *Volunteer Appreciation Happy Hour* event. At the VAC meeting, Shannon received a well deserved round of applause. **Steve Murray** was thanked for his work on fixing part of a roof in a birds of prey building. Kudos to all of you!

High Desert Museum Area Updates from April 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Ranger Station - The station reopens for its ninth season on June 1. It will be open on Saturdays and Sundays. Beginning on July 1, the station will be open seven days per week. Last year they were six visitors short of 2,000 visitors. They are looking forward to a new season.

Gallery Attendants - There are currently eight volunteers working as attendants. The goal is for around 14 volunteers. Volunteers could have a bit of knowledge about the many areas of the Museum and work in several areas or they may wish to focus only on areas that interest them. This position is less formal than interpretive positions.

Silver Sage Trading Center - The new book by Museum volunteer, Les Joslin, entitled *Deschutes National Forest (Images of America)* is available in the store. There is also a book for 4-6 grade students entitled *Voices of the Western Frontier*. There are beautiful scarves with schools of fish and flocks of birds for sale. James Gang BBQ rub is available for when you want to fire up the barbecue. There is a new children's size t-shirt with abstract drawings of deer on them. The small pocket journals with wildlife on the covers have been popular. The store was busy over Spring Break - and before and after the break.

Naturalists - The number of visitors is picking up and attendance at talks has been increasing.

Birds of Prey - Thanks to a large gift from a donor, a new mew building and signage will be installed. There was damage to the roof and weathering yard over the winter. They are in the process of fixing the damage. The Vulture Venture 5k event on June 17 was mentioned and participation was encouraged.

Photography - They are taking pictures of artifacts in Collections. The team continues its work covering events at the Museum.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - The Area Overviews written by volunteers and staff working at the Museum are available on the hdm-gems.net website under the *Document Center* tab. The profiles of volunteers and staff has also been updated and it can also be found under the *Document Center* tab.

By Hand Through Memory - It was pointed out that many of the artifacts in this area can be considered art. This helps the Museum adhere to the addition of art in its mission statement. There was a recent conversation with Vivian Adams and she hopes to work with the Museum again soon. A group of visitors from an American Legion chapter pointed out a mislabeled artifact related to their group.

Collections - After discovering that many of the feathers in the Museum's collection are already included in the existing database, their work cataloging feathers is nearly complete. The instruments made by students as a part of the Museum's outreach program will soon be displayed in the *Kids Curate* exhibit. The instruments are colorful and will actually play music. That exhibit begins on May 5.

Admissions/Greeters - The new three-screen video display over the admissions desk is up and running. They are getting closer to fully integrating the membership data with admissions data on the cash registers. It is now easier to renew memberships at the admissions desk. During Spring Break, there were an average of 1,100 people per day. Kids Day had the highest attendance of any day at the Museum - 1,735 visitors.

Diversity in the Desert: A Community Celebration

Join us to celebrate 35 years of the High Desert Museum. Enjoy live music, beverage tastings, appetizers, children's activities and see the Lazinka sawmill in action.

Dr. Tom Connolly, director of archaeological research, and Dr. Dennis Jenkins, archeologist, from The Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon, will give a lecture on 15,000 years of High Desert prehistory.

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Members free, guests \$7

Beer tasting package: \$10 (pint glass and tickets)

RSVP by May 5 (space is limited): highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp

Swainson's and Squirrels Field Trip

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



farmers try to eradicate them. This small ground squirrel that resembles a prairie dog can do a lot of damage to crops such as alfalfa. They are managed through poisoning and shooting.

The group learned some interesting facts about Swainson's hawks on this trip. These birds live in open grassland and sage flat habitats. Each fall, breeding Swainson's living in western and central North America, fly south to winter in South America. This migration route can be more than 6,000 miles one way. Swainson's feed mostly on insects when not in their breeding territories. When they migrate, Swainson's fly in groups of thousands of birds. These groups, known as *kettles*, can be seen in parts of the Midwest.



Swainson's hawk

Though Swainson's hawks have adapted to using agricultural lands in many parts of their range, their numbers have declined significantly in parts of the western U.S. There are several factors that may be affecting their decline.

In 1995 satellite telemetry was used for the first time to track their migration. In the winter of 1995-96, tens of thousands of Swainson's hawks, nearly a third of the entire population, died in Argentina due to pesticides. Changes were made in insect control methods and the Swainson's numbers increased there.

Here in central Oregon, researchers have conducted studies on lead exposure in scavenging birds. Lead can cause significant behavioral and physiological damage. High levels can cause anemia, kidney damage, liver failure, neurological damage, and death. Scavenging birds frequently ingest spent ammunition, a common source of lead. For information on alternatives to lead ammunition, click [here](#).

Power lines can also pose a risk to large birds of prey. The middle lines on power poles are often protected with insulators to prevent electrocutions. If you do see a dead or injured bird on the wires, see if you can find a plaque on the nearest pole. Report the information inscribed on the plaque to the state Fish and Wildlife department and local power company.

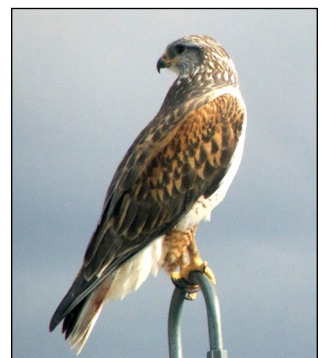
On this field trip, birds of prey were seen on power lines, on the ground in crop circles, and perched on pivoting irrigation systems. There were great views of Swainson's hawks, ferruginous hawks, red-tailed hawks, and golden and bald eagles despite steady 15 mph wind conditions. Swainson's hawks have plumage that ranges in predominant color from light to dark. An infrequently-seen dark morph bird was spotted on this trip. There was a fleeting glimpse of a northern harrier. Common ravens were seen near the larger birds of prey. American kestrels were seen in several locations. A pair of prairie falcons nesting on the Fort Rock formation put on a show for field trip participants as gusts of wind blew hard from the west. It may have been too windy for turkey vultures since only two were seen all day.

Last weekend a van full of eager participants left the Museum in search of Swainson's hawks and Belding's ground squirrels. On the drive to the Fort Rock area, staff members Nickie Broesel and Laura McWhorter pointed out wildlife. Nickie told the group about the local environment and how it's managed for both wildlife and agriculture.

Belding's ground squirrels are common in the Fort Rock area and they are a favorite prey species of Swainson's hawks. Though birds of prey like feasting on them, local



Belding's Ground Squirrel



Ferruginous hawk



Western kingbird

Smaller birds were weathering out the windy conditions in the foliage of trees and shrubs but there were glimpses of several species. Two California quails perched typically on fence posts. A western kingbird posed for several minutes on a fence line as it did a little fly catching. We also saw Brewer's blackbirds, Woodhouse's scrub jays, a northern shrike, northern flickers, and Brewer's sparrows. The beautiful and iconic songs of canyon wrens and western meadowlarks were heard.

A few mammals were also seen. Belding's ground squirrels stood alertly in some of the fields. There were far away views of a coyote and a herd of pronghorn. Mule deer crossed the road in front of the van as we entered the Fort Rock area.

Though the weather conditions on this trip were not ideal, the group saw a good variety of wildlife and learned how it has adapted to the high desert environment. It was a great trip!

Photos by Abbott Schindler, Siobhan Sullivan, & file

A Pollinator's Plight Lecture

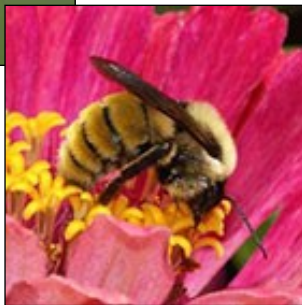
by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Visitors to the Museum on April 6 were treated to an evening event filled with facts about some of North America's pollinator insects. The featured speaker, Rich Hatfield, was impressed that so many people had shown up to hear a talk about invertebrates – a topic that makes some squeamish.

The night started out with a brief talk by LeeAnn Kriegh about her book, *The Nature of Bend*. The book is a field guide to common plants and animals of the region. She was grateful 40 naturalists, including Damian Fagan and Jon Nelson of the High Desert Museum, gave her so much help in compiling the book. She also thanked Museum volunteer, John Williams, for his photographic contributions. *The Nature of Bend* is for sale in the *Silver Sage Trading Center* and LeeAnn autographed copies after the evening's presentation.



The next speaker was Rich Hatfield. He is currently the senior endangered conservation biologist with the Xerces Society. He formerly worked as a teacher and he uses those skills to educate people about insects. He was instrumental in helping to get the rusty patch bumble bee, *Bombus affinis*, listed as an endangered species. It was officially listed on March 21, 2017. Rich has also authored several books including *Conserving Bumble bees*, *Attracting Native Pollinators*, and *100 Plants to Feed the Bees*.



Rich told the audience some interesting statistics about invertebrates and pollinators in general. About 90-95% of the world's biodiversity consists of invertebrates. One third of the world's plants are pollinated by insects. Unlike other insects, bees intentionally collect pollen so they are considered the best pollinators. It is fed to larvae and consumed by adults. There are approximately 3,600 species of bees north of Mexico in

North America. These insects lay their eggs underground, in tunnels, or in hollowed out branches.

The bee that most people are familiar with, the European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, was introduced to North America in the 1600's. There has been a 50% decline in their numbers since 1950. Testing of pesticides and insecticides are routinely done on this species – even though native species may be affected in different ways. Native bee species have to compete for resources with honey bees and Rich strongly discouraged people from becoming beekeepers.



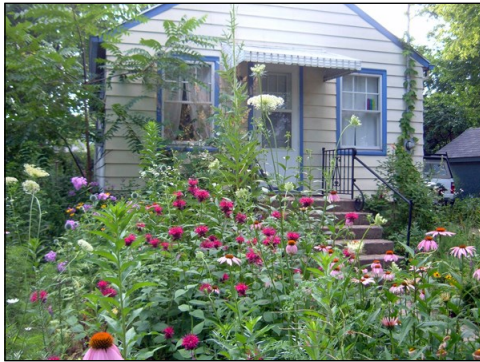
Pollinator's Plight continued

When people think of bees, many think of bumble bees. They serve as an ambassador for bee conservation since people tend to like their fuzzy appearance. Rich referred to them as “the gateway drug to pollinators.” In recent experiments, bumble bees were shown to have a unique ability to learn. They use this ability to get nectar in ways other bees may find difficult. They also have unique behaviors such as detaching their wings from their flight muscles to warm themselves and then reattaching them. There are 50 species of bumble bees in North America and seven are at risk in the Pacific Northwest.

Bee populations are threatened by several factors. Honey bees and greenhouse bumble bees used for crop pollination may pass on diseases and parasites lethal to native species. Neonicotinoid pesticides are used on many crops and they are absorbed by every cell in the plant. This can kill bees and other wildlife. Habitat has been lost or



fragmented due to agricultural activities and expanding cities and towns. Climate change has caused some species to change their range farther north – with the exception of bumble bees. Since they haven't shifted their range, bumble bees may be adversely affected by warmer and cooler temperatures.



What can you do to help pollinators? 1) Plant flowering plants that bloom at different times of the year, especially native species from a nursery that limits its use of pesticides. You can sign a Pollinator Protection Pledge through the Xerces Society [here](#). 2) Provide secure nest sites, such as brush piles, that are functional though not necessarily pretty. 3) Avoid using insecticides and if you do apply them, use them sparingly. Avoid systemic neonicotinoid pesticides in particular. 4) Collect information on bumble bees as a citizen scientist and share it with the Xerces Society's Bumble Bee Watch [here](#).

After Rich's talk, a film called *A Ghost in the Making* was shown. The film's maker, Clay Bolt, has had a lifelong interest in science and art. He used his talents to focus on the plight of the rusty patch bumble bee. With the help of experts, including Rich Hatfield, he looked at museum collections and went out in the field to try to document the bee's former and current range. After several unsuccessful attempts to find them, he finally saw live rusty patch bumble bees at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum with the help of Susan Carpenter. Bumble bees are widely used in commercial greenhouse tomato growing operations. Clay expressed his concerns about the negative impacts greenhouse escapes can have on native species. The film ended with reminders about how you can help native species survive. You can watch this beautiful and informative 19-minute film [here](#). You can also see some of the stunning photographs mentioned in the film at the USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab [here](#)



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Photos by Flickr, John Williams, & Xerces Society

Senior Day

May 17

Free Admission for 65 and older

High Desert Voices

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High Desert
Museum, Inc.
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2017



2017

Kitchen Patrol: Clean up after yourself

May	May - continued
1 Summer hours begin: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.	27 Summer Programming Begins.
5 Exhibit Opening: <i>Kids Curate</i> .	31 Museum Event: <i>Pollinator Conservation: What's the Buzz?</i> Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
5-6 Weekend Workshop: <i>Native Wildlife: Photography & Conservation</i> . May 5, optional class session: 5:00 - 6:00 pm; May 6, Photography shoot: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Members \$150, Non-members \$200. Registration and pre-payment required. SORRY, FULL.	June- Save the Date!
6 Weekend Workshop: <i>Dutch Oven Dining: Breakfast</i> . 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. RSVP.	10 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
6 Exhibit Opening: <i>Scats & Tracks</i> .	17 Museum Event: <i>Vulture Venture: 5K Trail Run & Walk</i> . 8:00 am. Registration and pricing information is available here .
9 Off-site Natural History Pub: <i>Satellites & Saddles, Lasers & Grazers: Monitoring Grassland Vegetation with Remote Sensing Technologies</i> . 7:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMenamins. Free. RSVP.	28 Museum Event: <i>Waterston Desert Writing Prize Award Ceremony</i> . 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Free. Hosted wine bar & hors d'oeuvres.
10 Workshop: <i>Birding for Breakfast</i> . 7:00 - 9:00 am. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. RSVP. Coffee, tea, & pastries provided.	
10 Lunch & Lecture: <i>Training for WWII on the High Desert</i> . 12:00 pm. Bring a lunch. Free with Museum admission. RSVP.	
11 Museum Event: <i>HDM: After Hours</i> . 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	
12 Museum Event: <i>Diversity in the Desert: A Community Celebration</i> . 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Members free, guests \$7. RSVP.	
13 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	
17 Senior Day. Free admission for those aged 65 and older.	
19 Weekend Workshop: <i>Native Wildlife: Photography & Conservation</i> . May 19, optional class session 5:00 - 6:00 pm; May 20, Photography shoot 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Members \$150, Non-members \$200. Registration and pre-payment required. SORRY, FULL.	
20 Weekend Workshop: <i>Dutch Oven Dining: Dinner & Dessert</i> . 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. RSVP.	
22 Lecture: <i>A Complicated Legacy: The History of the Hanford Site</i> . 6:00 pm, doors open at 5:30 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or 541-382-4754
To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program