



Volunteer Luncheon, Cookie Exchange, & White Elephant Gift Exchange

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Over 40 people attended the luncheon, gift exchange, and cookie exchange on December 12, 2014. Volunteers and staff feasted on sandwich wraps and hearty potato soup. People brought in a wide variety of cookies including tea cakes, toffee bars, brownies, peanut butter, oatmeal-raisin, and chocolate chip. Carolyn Nesbitt thanked everyone for being there and wished them a happy holiday. The new executive assistant, Tedra Leonard, was introduced.

Seventeen people participated in a white elephant gift exchange. People chose one of the festively wrapped gifts from a table or “stole” a gift someone else had already unwrapped. The most stolen item was a bobble head yard gnome. Other popular items included a bottle of wine, a bottle of beer, a wood candle holder, and a \$100 gift certificate for Naked Winery. Candles, holiday hand towels, potpourri with a bird-shaped holder, holiday socks, a light up necklace, a tin letter holder, a plush snowman basket, Emeril cookbook, butter rum Lifesavers, and a large lace collar were also part of the exchange. Marianne Goddard seemed to get items that everybody else wanted to steal so she had to unwrap several more gifts. There was a lot of laughter as the gift exchange progressed and all the participants walked away with a gift – even if it was not the one they started out with.



Introducing Elisha Zellner, Rimrock Café Manager

by Lynne Schaefer, Newsletter Writer



Photo by Lee Schaefer

The Rimrock Café now offers gluten free chili and wieners, and silverware and ceramic bowls have replaced plastic utensils and Styrofoam bowls. Current manager Elisha (pronounced el-leesha) Zellner continues “to add new menu options here and there including healthier items of fruit cups instead of chips” since she began as lead assistant in the café in February 2013. “I’m trying to find gluten free bread for sandwiches but it is too costly,” she said. “I’m still looking.”

Elisha’s day begins at 8 am in the summer and 9:30 am in the winter when she plans, preps, and cooks for Museum visitors. With help, and because of limited refrigerator space and a small oven, the café is able to serve up to 200 people for special events, exhibit openings, Desert Sage Society, and volunteer and staff gatherings.

Favorites are turkey, ham, and vegetarian pinwheel sandwiches and potato-bacon soup. Comfort foods (meatloaf sandwich and BLT) are always popular. Summer visitors like the Santa Fe sandwich (ham, melted cheddar, mild green chilies, and chipotle on sourdough bread). “It is quick and easy to prepare for summer crowds that line up to the door,” Elisha said. “The cranberry turkey wrap and the chicken Caesar wrap are popular with winter visitors.”

Elisha’s day ends a little after 3 pm. “On a peak summer day,” she said, “We serve between 800 and 1,000 customers and take in between \$1,400 and \$2,000. On slow winter days, we may serve one to four people and take in \$90.”

Volunteers are needed to bus tables and to work the cash register. “I’d like to see the volunteer program increase more in the café,” Elisha said. “Four to five teens help in the summer. Adult volunteers relate well with the older winter visitors. One former adult volunteer worked into a paid, part-time job on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.”

The youthful looking Elisha was born 44 years ago on the U.S. Air Force Base in Masowa, Japan, and lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Eugene, Oregon, before the family settled in Aumsville. She is a graduate of Cascade High School in nearby Turner.

At age 12, Elisha lived the dream of every young girl who wishes for a horse of her own. On her walk home from school one day, she stopped to admire horses in a pasture. Over the next few days, she stuffed carrots in her pockets to feed the horses. One day the owner saw her and asked if she knew anything about horses. She did not, so he asked for her name and phone number. “I’m in hot water now,” she thought.

He called her parents to let them know what she was doing and to ask permission to teach Elisha the proper and safe way to handle and be around horses. He taught her not only how to care for a horse but how to ride as well.

For her 13th birthday, Alisha’s step-father and mother gave her a Morgan horse named Captain Dan that they bought from the kindly man.

“Horses are a big part of my life,” she said. “I’m an equestrian. I barrel race in rodeos, show quarter horses, and teach high school and 4H equestrian drill teams. One member of the Mountain View High School drill team advanced to the state competition.”

Responsibility and proper care of a horse is helpful therapy for troubled youngsters and adults. “Horses don’t care if you can’t read, spell, or do math,” she said.

Elisha also taught riding lessons and boarded horses at a 25-stall barn in Salem. She evacuated six horses from Tumalo during last summer’s wildfire.

Horses have always been part of her daughters’ lives, too. Meghan, 25, lives in Kentucky, and Kaytie, 19, is studying to become a veterinarian’s assistant at Pendleton. Elisha jokes that she sent her current horse, a gray quarter horse named Gus, off to college in Pendleton where he boards with Kaytie’s horse.

Divorced in 2004, Elisha worked as a payroll accounts specialist for Sunwest Management for five years until they filed for bankruptcy. A co-worker urged her to apply as a cook at the Silver Spur, a bar in Salem.

“I’m not experienced,” she said.

“They serve simple fare. You cook for your two girls, don’t you?” her friend asked.

Elisha landed the job and prepared nutritious meals for Silver Spur patrons for eight years before coming to the Museum.

Science Party – Winged Wonders

By Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



The E. L. Wiegand Pavilion was packed with visitors waiting to see the Science Party show over the Thanksgiving Day weekend. Marissa Iverson handed out bags full of supplies to use during the interactive event. An airline pilot, played by Carolyn Nesbitt, Buzz the bumblebee, played by Nickie DeReu, and Buzz Lightyear, played by Erica Pelley, introduced the crowd to some of the principles of flight.

Volunteers from the audience helped demonstrate the principles of lift, thrust, and drag. Demonstrations included showing how to blow up a very long balloon with only one breath, using hair dryers and leaf blowers to levitate balls, flying paper airplanes, showing different wing shapes of animals, observing how remote control helicopters and planes fly, and watching a 2-liter bottle zoom across the room on a string.

The Museum's great horned owl, with its broad wings, and peregrine falcon, with its pointy wings, were brought out to show the audience. The birds fly and hunt in much different ways and the shape of their wings is a key factor for this difference.



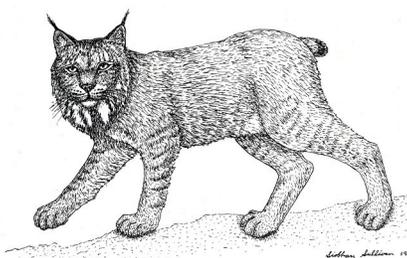
The *Science Party – Winged Wonders* show will also take place at 11:30 am and 1:00 pm from December 26, 2014 through January 3, 2015. Thanks to Bend Research for sponsoring this show and for the additional support from Pacific Power.

Photos by Abbott Schindler and John Williams



In Memoriam of Snowshoe the Lynx

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Drawing by Siobhan Sullivan

On November 10, 2014, the Museum's hybrid lynx, Snowshoe, passed away. The big cat was found in Castle Crags State Park, in northern California, by hiker David Osborn in 2005. The lynx was captured and it was determined that he had been declawed and defanged and was in poor condition. Someone had illegally kept this protected species as a pet and dumped it in the park to fend for itself. The High Desert Museum was contacted and he lived for nine years at the Museum. Snowshoe was thought to be a Canada Lynx/Eurasian Lynx hybrid.

Lynx are usually solitary animals that are rarely glimpsed by humans. Canada Lynx populations fluctuate with snowshoe hare population levels, one of their favorite prey species. Though they look similar to a bobcat, their larger feet and longer limbs help them find prey in snowy environments. The feet act as snowshoes so the Museum's cat was well named. In Oregon, Canada Lynx have been found in the Willamette Valley, the Cascade Range, the Steens Mountain, the Stinkingwater Mountains, the Blue Mountains, and the Willowa Mountains. This threatened species is protected under the Endangered Species Act.

The word "lynx" is derived from a word meaning light and brightness. It is clear from the many comments the Museum received after he passed away that Snowshoe was a bright spot in many people's lives and he will be missed.

Introducing Marissa Iverson, Museum Educator

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



Photo by John Williams

Marissa Iverson wants every Bend school child who visits the High Desert Museum to leave with a “sense of wonder” about the environment and the creatures and plants that live in it. If her sparkling enthusiasm works its magic on the kids, they will.

Marissa came to the museum in June, working with the summer camp programs. In late October, she became the full-time Museum Educator. She traveled all over the world to get here.

She was born 28 years ago in Chicago to parents whose jobs allowed the family to travel widely during summers. Among their destinations were Peru’s Machu Picchu, the Australian outback, Thailand, and Cambodia. Those experiences inspired in Marissa a deep love for the world’s “rugged beauty and wonderful cultures.”

“After high school,” she said, “Oregon was what I wanted to explore.” She attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland “to study science and natural resource conservation.” She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies with concentrations in sociology and anthropology. Along the way, she also developed a deep interest in teaching.

Her first job was with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) as an outdoor science educator. One of her responsibilities brought Marissa to Bend.

For three seasons, between 2007 to 2009, “my home was a 14-by-14-foot A-frame cabin at Skyliner Lodge,” she said. At that time, the lodge belonged to OMSI; it is now part of the High Desert Education Service District and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Each season she took groups of about 12 Oregon children into the field to study such things as fire adaptation, stream ecology, birds, flint knapping (shaping stone through striking it with another object), and survival skills.

Her words come fast as she describes her work; her hands are in constant motion.

Working with OMSI, she led trips to the Canadian Rockies and to the redwood forests of California. Her research included work with pikas, aspen trees, and Chinook salmon.

During one season at Skyliners Lodge, another OMSI employee stationed at the Hancock Field Station in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, came to Bend. His name was Ben Iverson; he is now Marissa’s husband.

Along the way, both advanced their educations and earned Master of Science degrees—Marissa at the University of Idaho, and Ben at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. Marissa also further developed her longtime interest in teaching.

“I couldn’t decide whether to continue conducting salmon research or to teach science in the classroom,” she said. Her eyebrows shoot upward; a few strands of hair work loose and her forehead shows tiny lines of thought, or maybe excitement.

What she came up with was working with scientists to learn to teach more effectively, to show them how to relate to different grade levels of students, and to develop learning material and strategies of presentation.

After several years in La Grande, the couple returned to where they met. The move to Bend was something Marissa very much wanted.

Ben became a science teacher at High Desert Middle School. Marissa found a job with Bend Parks and Recreation and also substitute taught in classrooms.

They settled into a northeast Bend home; they are avid flyfishers, rock climbers, and hikers. Marissa grew up as a vegetarian in Chicago. The man she married was a hunter from Montana. Marissa smiles. “I’m no longer a vegetarian,” she said.

During her time with OMSI, she had admired the High Desert Museum, so coming to work here “was natural.”

She now designs and implements a variety of educational programs. Among her favorite museum programs is the Backpack Explorers for three to five-year olds.

Marissa grins at the thought: “...all those kids walking around with their little backpacks...with their parents and grandparents...” She introduces them to her world. They study animal scat and tracks, they explore the forest and stream, and they learn to pan gold. Each week is a different adventure.

“We get these kids pre-school and kindergarten ready,” she said.

During the school year, she works with elementary school classes who come with their teachers.

“I have a passion to promote the High Desert Museum,” she said. She knows she isn’t alone. “I heard from word-of-mouth and other ways about the enormous volunteer base here,” she said. “I’m proud to be part of that. This place is very well-respected in the community.”

Volunteer Training Requirements

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

New High Desert Museum volunteers are required to go through the Common Core Training (CCT) prior to volunteering at the Museum. Current volunteers are required to complete CCT every other year.

Volunteers must attend five museum-sponsored lectures each year. These include curator-led lectures and film nights, Lunch & Lectures events, and Natural History Pub and History Pub events at McMenamins. Schedules for these events can be found on the Museum's web site <http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/>, in its quarterly *Desert Sage* newsletter, in the monthly *High Desert Voices* newsletter, and on the volunteer web site <http://www.hdm-gems.net/>

The Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training is a more time-intensive training for those who expect to do interpretive work at the Museum. Interpretive volunteers from the following teams are required to take this training: Mammal, Spirit of the West, Desertarium, Birds of Prey, By Hand Through Memory, Living History, and Naturalist. Participants have the option to do this training to become a Museum Master (\$10 fee), or to get certification with the National Association of Interpretation (\$145 fee). The next CIG course will be scheduled soon.

A new program that trains volunteers to be Museum Guides is being created by staff. The position will be similar to that of docents at other institutions. Some traveling exhibits require that a staff person always be present so this will be particularly helpful in providing people to meet that requirement.

For more information, contact Carolyn Nesbitt at 541-382-4754 ext. 255 or cnesbitt@highdesertmuseum.org.

High Desert Museum Area Updates from December 2014

By Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – There are currently eight volunteers in this area and they are looking for additional volunteers. They would like to meet with potential volunteers and personally introduce them to the area. They feel this approach would help them gain more volunteers since what they might do to help out is not as evident until you actually see it.

Living History – The Spirit of the West area is decorated for the holidays. More volunteers are needed for the two weeks of winter break. The Miller Ranch will be open – weather permitting.

Naturalists – The team of six volunteers is happily “bumping along”. Carolyn Nesbitt was thanked for introducing them to a new volunteer who is interested in natural history. She wants to eventually become a professional botanist.

High Desert Voices Newsletter – They recently met a new volunteer interested in joining the team.

Collections – The abundance of beer bottles in Faith Powell's office was noted. The team is moving along in its preparations for the upcoming *Brewing Culture* exhibit. So far, this exhibit shows “good potential”.

Birds of Prey – There are only two people volunteering in this area and they really need additional volunteers. A potential new volunteer was recently sent to talk with them about the area.

Silver Sage Trading Center – There is a 20% discount at the store for volunteers through December 24. There are many potential gift items on display. Young readers

could browse through board books such as *Paws and Claws* or *Snouts and Sniffers*. A blown glass owl ornament would be sure to please any collector. A small canvas print of a roller skate would fit nicely into small spaces. An oven mitt and various shaped cookie cutters would be great for a baker. The store is gearing up for the brewing exhibit with several beer-related items. There is a t-shirt with a bold print related to the *Brewing Culture* exhibit. The book on beer in Bend by John Abernathy is available. Beer soap would make an interesting gift item. For the dog that has everything, there is a beer bottle shaped dog biscuit that contains spent grain from the beer making process.

Admissions/Greeters – Kathy Spurlock was thanked for sitting in at the last VAC meeting since the team lead was on vacation. Volunteers that sign up the most memberships are being entered into a contest that includes prizes such as a \$100 gift certificate for the Tower Theatre.

Photography – They have had a busy month. Siobhan Sullivan was thanked for sending the team notices about upcoming events and exhibits. Abbott Schindler and Richard Frederick recently returned to the Museum so the team is taking lots of photos. There is one new volunteer. Pictures by John Williams are available to view at <http://seeingthegift.net/>. Click ‘HDM’ to see photos taken at the Museum. It was suggested that the Museum might consider having a web page where photos were available to purchase by pushing a “Donation” button.

Kudos Korner

By Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in December. **Gordon Dahlin** retired from his volunteer work at the Museum after about 20 years of service. He had put in more volunteer hours than just about anyone else. His help over the years was appreciated by so many. **Frank Graham** was thanked for portraying Father Christmas this month. When you see some of the expressions of people that came to see him at the Museum (see below), you can tell how excited they were to see him. **John Williams** was thanked for the pictures he took of Father Christmas using a discrete technique while photographing them. Visitors were not even aware they were being photographed. **Lee Schaefer, Abbott Schindler, and Richard Frederick** were also thanked for photographing many of the recent events. **Linda Evans, Ross Hart, and Ethan Mark** were thanked for guiding people through their Father Christmas visit. There were thanks for being honest about what happens when one of the Museum's animals dies. Letting people know that the animal passed away, and describing their life in carefully crafted press releases is preferable over saying that they "disappeared". **Carolyn Nesbitt** was thanked for doing double duty until a new Volunteer Coordinator is hired. When concerns were voiced to Dana Whitelaw about the many hours Carolyn has been putting in lately, she replied that she was aware of it but that Carolyn won't go home even when told to leave. Kudos to all of you!

Father Christmas visits the High Desert Museum



Photos by Abbott Schindler and John Williams

**Mid Oregon Credit Union Free Days are
scheduled for January 24 and February 21**

Volunteers needed!

High Desert Voices

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Printing: Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan

2014: The Year in Review—Thanks to all of the Volunteers!



Spirit of the West Day



Picnic in the Past



Firearms & Fashion



Frontier Days



All Aboard! Railroads in the High Desert



Raptors of the Desert Sky



Mrs. Miller's Mother's Day Tea



High Desert Rendezvous



Mustang Awareness Day



All Volunteer Meeting and BBQ



Annual Meeting & Volunteer Recognition



Tales of Halls Eve

Photos by Photography Team



Siobhan

Ralph

Lynne

Dave

Phil

Suzie



**Season's Greetings and a
Happy New Year from the Newsletter Team!**

**HIGH
DESERT
MUSEUM**
BEND, OREGON

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

2015



2015

Kitchen Patrol: Clean up after yourself

January

- 3 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am—3:00 pm.
- 10 **Off-Site Field Trip: High Desert Raptors.** Damian Fagan. 8:30 am—12:00 pm. Eric Pelley. 541-382-4754 Ext.320. Registration & prepay required.
- 13 **Natural History Pub: Visual Evidence for Deep Geologic Time.** Marley Miller. McMenamins. 7:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Free. RSVP.
- 16 **Member's Opening: Brewing Culture: The Craft of Beer.** Jon Abernathy, author of *Bend Beer: A History of Brewing in Central Oregon*. 6:30 pm. Members free; Non-members \$5. Beer tasting package \$10. RSVP.
- 17 **Spirit of the West Day.** 11:00 am—3:00 pm.
- 20 **VAC meeting.** 2:00—4:00 pm.
- 21 **Documentary and Discussion: Rescuing Sage Grouse—A Habitat Crisis.** Garth Fuller. 6:30 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. RSVP.
- 24 **Off-Site Field Trip: High Desert Winter Wildlife.** 8:00 am—12:00 pm. Members \$5; Non-members \$10. Registration & prepay required.
- 24 **Mid Oregon Credit Union Free Family Day.** 10:00 am—4:00 pm.
- 27 **History Pub: Bend's Sporting Past.** Beau Estes. McMenamins. 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Free.
- 31 **Exhibit opening: Poison and Venom.**
- 31 **Weekend Workshop: Fermented Foods.** Hands-on 90 minute classes. Contact Eric Pelley. 541-382-4754 Ext.320. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration & prepay required.

February — Save the Date!

- 5 **Beer Tasting: Porter vs Stout.** 4:00—8:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. Beer tasting package \$10 for glass and five tastings. Additional tastings \$1 each. RSVP.
- 6 **Teacher Training: Exploring Environmental Issues through Inquiry.** 9:00 am—3:00 pm. \$10. RSVP.
- 7 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am—3:00 pm.
- 7 **Off-Site Field Trip: Wintering Birds of the High Desert.** 8:00 am—12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration & prepay required. RSVP.
- 10 **Natural History Pub: The Oregon Spotted Frog: Natural History Notes and Ecological Surprises.** McMenamins. 7:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Free. RSVP.
- 11 **Museum and Me.** 4:00—7:00 pm. RSVP or contact Eric Pelley. 541-382-4754 ext. 320.
- 14 **Mining Day.** 11:00 am—3:00 pm. \$2 per “miner”.
- 17 **High Desert Museum Book Club.** Discuss Ivan Doig's *This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind*. 6:00-7:30 pm. Free. Downtown Bend Library. RSVP.
- 17 **VAC meeting.** 2:00—4:00 pm.
- 19 **Panel Discussion: Current Issues in Craft Beer.** 6:00—8:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. RSVP. No-host bar.
- 21 **Free Day.** 10:00 am—4:00 pm.
- 24 **History Pub: Klondike Kate.** McMenamins. 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Free.
- 25 **Lecture: Welcome to Subirdia.** Discussion of book by John Marzluff. 6:30 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. RSVP. No-host bar.
- 28 **Weekend Workshop: Natural Art.** 10:30 am—12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration & prepay required.. RSVP.

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or
541-382-4754 ext. 241