

HIGH DESERT VOICES

October 2015

News and Information published by and for Volunteers



2015 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Program

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Over 100 people attended the meeting on September 18 to see who was recognized for their service as volunteers and to hear about the Museum's achievements over the past year. There were so many people, in fact, that additional tables and chairs had to be brought out.

This year Tate and Tate Catering provided a dinner of lasagna, salad, fresh fruit and vegetables, rolls, and several desserts. Beverages from local businesses were also available.

Board of Trustees Chair Josh Newton gave a brief welcome and thanked volunteers and staff for their role in giving visitors such a memorable experience at the High Desert Museum (HDM). He introduced Volunteer Manager Shannon Campbell. She thanked volunteers for putting in more than 22,000 hours of service this year. The value of those hours comes out to about half a million dollars. Shannon expressed appreciation for the work of interns and the teen volunteers. She noted that several new awards had been added this year. These include the Director's Award, Seasonal Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer Couple of the Year, Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer of the Year, Rookie Teen of the Year, Behind-the-Scenes Teen of the Year, and Kids Camp Teen of the Year.

The first awards presented were the Milestone awards for the number of hours worked at the Museum. One volunteer, **Linda Muerer**, put in more than 500 hours in one year. Many volunteers were recognized for their cumulative hours worked while volunteering at the Museum. There were seven volunteers that had worked 1,000+ hours, seven that had worked 1,500+ hours, and five that had worked 3,000+ hours. **Gary Dolezal** has worked 4,000+ hours and **Christine Frey** has worked 5,000+ hours.

Linda Muerer received special recognition for helping in the Development Department. Her work makes life easier and her "warm smile and kind words are truly an inspiration".

The next awards given out were for the Director's Award. This award can be given at any time of the year to recognize those who have gone above and beyond their ordinary tasks for the Museum. The award was presented to **Lori Neal**, who works in Living History, and **Les Joslin**, who works at the High Desert Ranger Station.

The next award was the Seasonal Volunteer of the Year and it can go to volunteers who have worked at least three months of the year. This year's recipient was **Cyndy Wicker** who works with the Wildlife program.





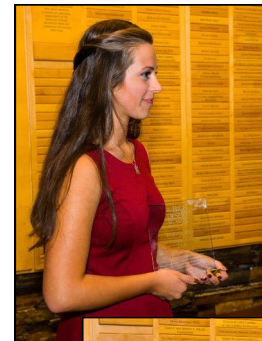
The next award was the Volunteer Couple of the Year and, though this recognition has been discussed over the years, this will be the first time that it is formally presented. This year **Cynde and Steve Magidson** were the recipients of the award. Cynde works for the Mammal program and Steve works for Living History.

The next award was the Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer of the Year. This award recognizes individuals that don't generally work directly with the public and have volunteered at least 100 hours in the last year. The recipient of this year's award was **Claudia Nix** who works with the Wildlife program.

Next came the Rookie of the Year. This award recognizes people who have served for two years or less and have worked at least 100 hours per year. The recipient this year was **Siobhan Sullivan** who works with the volunteer newsletter.

The Volunteer of the Year recognition was handed out next. Recipients must have worked for more than two years at the Museum. The volunteer recognized for his outstanding service and participation was **Thad Grudzien**.

Several new categories were added to the teen program this year and the criteria for being selected were similar to the adult



requirements. The Teen Volunteer of the Year this year was **Isabelle Rice**. The Rookie Teen of the Year was **Jessica Arnold**. The Behind-the-Scenes Teen of the Year was **Jesse Polay**. The Kids Camp Teen of the Year was **Sara Schneider**.



Gordon Dahlin was inducted into the Museum Hall of Fame. This award goes to people who have volunteered at least 10 years, put in 2,000 hours or more, and are no longer active as a volunteer. Gordon started at the Museum 20 years ago and has worked with the Wildlife, Collections, and By Hand Through Memory programs over the years.



Executive Director Dana Whitelaw spoke next. Museum founder Don Kerr, who recently passed away, was appreciated for his vision, legacy, and for what some thought were crazy ideas to create the Museum. He brought together a collection of curators, designers, writers, and philanthropists to work on it. Dana said, "We are so lucky for his crazy idea. Well done Don, well done". Dana repeated what HDM Board Trustee Margi Heater recently said about donors being key to the Museum's success. That includes "donations of dollars and donations of time". She announced that the Museum had its eighth consecutive year of a balanced budget and that we had over 163,000 visitors in the past year. HDM also served over 12,000 in its school programs. Outreach programs have served a growing number of community members. The attendance at *Museum and Me* programs, which serve children and adults with special needs, has tripled. HDM received several grants. One was with Central Oregon STEM Hub. Several organizations are involved with integrating Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) into classrooms and the community. The Museum also received a \$125,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation this year. Such awards are badges of honor for the Museum.

Dana listed some of the many exhibits and attractions that drew visitors in this year. These included *Painting Oregon's Harvest*, *Brewing Culture*, *Migration on the Wing*, *Out on a Limb*, the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and *Deadly by Nature*. New programs included fish talks, carnivore encounters, and one for citizen scientists. The baby porcupine was one of the cutest additions this year. Visitors continued to be excited by flight shows with raptors swooping over their heads. Over \$750,000 was raised for the renovation of the otter's exhibit area and Dana reminded people that they can still donate. Teen volunteers continue to impress visitors with their professionalism and friendliness. Interns have brought fresh ideas to the Museum. *Science Party* and *Open 'til Dark* are a couple of visitor's favorite programs. In the latest poll, the work of interpreters in Living History surpassed HDM's wildlife exhibits and demonstrations in popularity. There's nothing like watching children interacting with some of the characters.

Dana read parts of a funny review of the Museum on Yelp. The visitor, now an adult, recalled an unpleasant experience she had at the Museum when she was ten years old. She was stuck in the dark mining area for eight consecutive hours as part of an assignment. The reviewer concluded that, aside from that unpleasant memory, the place was wonderful. Dana ended the night by thanking everyone for "everything you do".

Photos by Todd Cary & John Williams

Rain, Snow or Shine Exhibit

by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer



You would be forgiven if, upon entering the newly opened *Rain, Snow or Shine* exhibit, you noticed little other than the High Desert Weather Center. The weather broadcasting set is the actual equipment used, until very recently, by KTVZ Chief Meteorologist, Bob Shaw, to deliver the weather forecast. Now museum guests can use the camera, teleprompter, monitor, and map (the lower-tech but less glitch-prone alternative to a green screen) to report on current weather conditions. Other visitors can view the report live on the television screen in the exhibit. Kids, parents, and grandparents all seem to enjoy pretending to be that highly important member of the news team: the weathercaster.

The weathercaster is indeed important because weather is often big news. Whether weather is newsworthy, of course, really depends on where it is happening. In other words, where you live dictates what weather you experience, and it even impacts how you experience the weather. Take thunder, for instance. A single loud clap of thunder is unlikely to be of note in Central Oregon. A single loud clap of thunder that wakes every person in town in the middle of the night is probably something that will be talked about the next day. A single loud clap of thunder that wakes every citizen of Corvallis, OR in early January is big news. It is big enough news to prompt an article on the front page of the newspaper about the cause of thunder. This was a situation my husband and I (both Midwesterners) found highly amusing because we had grown up with regular thunderstorms. To at least some residents of Corvallis, however, who did not frequently experience thunderstorms, it really was newsworthy. Where we live really does impact how we experience weather, and that concept is seen throughout the *Rain, Snow or Shine* exhibit. Visitors to the exhibit will find information about weather phenomena of particular importance to the high desert throughout the displays on broader weather concepts. They will also experience both how the location of the high desert affects regional climate and weather as well as how weather impacts and shapes the high desert landscape.

In the "Weather on the Move" section of the exhibit, general weather concepts are described. A short video explains why hurricanes spin and introduces viewers to the Coriolis effect. Nearby, a graphics panel outlines the water cycle of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation, while an interactive display demonstrates the very different angles at which the sun strikes the earth in summer and winter. The latter two displays touch on aspects of these general concepts that, while not unique to the high desert, are of particular consequence here. The idea of water being removed from the otherwise continuous water cycle when precipitation seeps into the ground and collects in underground aquifers resonates in a land where some lakes have obvious drain holes, rivers spring fully formed from mountainsides or canyon walls, and mountain snowmelt can take decades to seep through pumice before re-appearing in a clear lake. Similarly, spinning a globe in the different summer and winter angles of sunlight not only illustrates the cause of the seasons, but it also sheds light on the reason for Central Oregon's blissfully long summer days and painfully short winter days.



The weaving together of broad weather concepts with features of particular note in the high desert continues throughout the displays on climate change and the seasons. Particularly striking is the case of bull trout and climate change. Higher global temperatures mean the water temperatures of their native streams and lakes (some in the high desert) are increasing, negatively impacting the survival and spawning of this already threatened species. Still addressing climate change, the graphic display about summer makes the point that as summers are getting dryer, western landscapes are experiencing more and bigger fires. This is something residents of the high desert are acutely aware of. The winter section of the exhibit highlights

ways snowfall and snowpack are of particular interest to high desert dwellers. The concept of mountain snowpack as water storage for desert waterways is something with which we are extremely familiar after last winter. Also in the Winter section, graphic elements describe weak and strong snow layers and how they contribute to avalanches, which are of specific interest to Central Oregonians who regularly recreate in the Cascades in winter.

The Oregon Climate Profile and the Fall section of the exhibit pick up the theme of the mutual impact of place on climate and weather, and climate and weather on place. The large Oregon Climate Profile graphics panel depicts the elevation of the state in cross section from the Oregon Coast to Eastern Oregon. It portrays various types of clouds, the parts of the state over which they typically form, and the altitude at which they are usually found. Look for such Central Oregon phenomena as lenticular clouds and virga. This is also the panel that details how location dictates climate and weather by illustrating why the land in the shadows of the Cascade Mountains is so dry while the temperate rainforest is just to the west of the Cascade crest. The other side of the relationship between weather and place is highlighted in the Fall season display. It presents the way weather, specifically wind and lack of moisture, can shape a place. An example of such wind-carved or Aeolian landscapes is shown, and visitors have the opportunity to shape their own Aeolian landscape by directing a fan to sculpt tiny sand dunes in an interactive display.

When visitors are done shaping small sand dunes, they can move over to the only season display we haven't covered yet, Spring, and learn about lightning and the fulgurites that form when lightning strikes the ground. They can also ponder the ways the vintage weather instruments on display (thermometer set, barometer, sling psychrometer, and barograph) were used. If, in their hurry to get to the High Desert Weather Station on the way in, they missed the display outside the gallery about types of clouds, they can take that in (and make a cloud identifier) on their way out.

Photos by Todd Cary



High Desert Voices

Editor: Siobhan Sullivan
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Computer: Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan
Photographs: Todd Cary, Siobhan Sullivan, & John Williams

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work over the summer. **Staff** members involved in setting up and designing the new *Rain, Snow, or Shine* exhibit were thanked for doing a great job. This was **Carolyn Nesbitt's** first exhibit she has worked on as a curator and many people admired her work. **Staff and volunteers** involved in the set up of the *High Desert Rendezvous* event were also thanked. They worked very quickly and efficiently and had to work around obstacles such as an unexpected windstorm. People attending the event were very impressed with the time and effort that went into it. **Les Joslin** was thanked for the many hours he has worked at the High Desert Ranger Station this summer. The **Volunteer Recognition Committee members** involved in the work of revising the volunteer recognition program were thanked. It was a much bigger task than anticipated but some "good stuff" came up in the discussions. **Siobhan Sullivan**, a member of the committee, was thanked because "without her touch, effort, talent, and expertise" the final document "wouldn't be at the same level". Kudos to all of you!

High Desert Rendezvous

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



On August 29 the High Desert Museum shut its doors early to prepare for the highly anticipated *Rendezvous* fundraising event. Staff and volunteers, under the capable direction of Molly Black-Hissong, had the place set up in record time. Auction items were artistically displayed on tables decorated with rustic Western-style touches. Bid sheets were placed next to all of the items and the artwork in *Art of the West*. The eleven live auction items were prominently featured near the entrance. The large bar, most recently featured in the *Brewing Culture* exhibit, and a few smaller bars were stocked and ready with a variety of local spirits. Volunteers shuffled cards and polished up their moves in the gaming area of the *Cowboy Lounge*.

Staff members held baskets full of raffle tickets for a three-night stay and airfare for two to the destination of their choice in the contiguous United States. Several volunteers and staff members were ready to hand out programs and check people in. Just outside the doors, staff and volunteers held several animals from the wildlife collection. People entering the event were warmly welcomed by Executive Director Dana Whitelaw and other staff members.

Guests began arriving dressed in their finest Western wear. Many paused on their way in to meet the Museum's raven, Aplomado falcon, merlin, great horned owl, golden eagle, tortoise, and garter snake. As the event progressed, crowds wearing cowboy hats, colorful dresses, and embroidered shirts took over the hallways. If you purchased a raffle ticket you were given a pin with a flashing light and the crowd soon began to sparkle like fireflies.



Three areas were set up with silent auction tables that closed at different times. Bidding for the *Art of the West* artwork closed as the last table closed.

There were a wide variety of items to choose from including custom made jewelry, a Western belt buckle, boots, scarves, dresses, a lambskin coat, hand-turned wood bowls, baskets of food, headphones, cameras, a tablet and laptop computer, a wine cooler, bottles of beer, wine, vodka, and cider, small packages of dog items, meals at local restaurants, tickets for

events, tours, and services, and package trips to local resorts. Several items were purchased outright for a higher price before the bidding was over. These included a large hand-woven pine needle basket, a sterling silver horse-shaped pin, a Fitbit Flex fitness tracker, and an Ultimate Kid's Tablet by LeapPad.





Karen Bounds was the lucky winner. Chip Reeves, HDM Board trustee and Executive Vice President of Bank of the Cascades, introduced Dana Whitelaw. She said she was “thrilled to have you join us in our star Museum” and that it took a village to help it run well. She thanked Bank of the Cascades and the many other sponsors of the event, the volunteers and staff that helped put it together, and the businesses and individuals that made donations for the auction. Dana thanked Molly for making sure “all the moving parts were running...with amazing grace”. She thanked Honorary Chairs Bob and Karen Boyd for their part in turning “all of us into desert enthusiasts”. Dana noted that it had been 33 years since Don Kerr started HDM. Though he recently passed away, the Museum continues to follow his vision.



encouraged support of everything HDM embraces “critters, people, magical places, all this Museum brings to life ... so those who follow can also rejoice”. Ellen said, “Think BIG, think BOLD like a canyon! Turn this moment into momentum for the High Desert Museum starting right now!” The auctioneer then asked for monetary donations and guests contributed amounts ranging from \$500 up to \$10,000.

The evening ended with the lively tunes of the *Jimmy Bobby Band*. Guests swirled and danced to the foot stomping music and had a great time. They were thankful for a wonderful evening and we were thankful for their continuing support.

Photos by Todd Cary, Siobhan Sullivan & John Williams

After the silent auction closed, guests went outside to a large covered area full of formally decorated tables. Fortunately the windy conditions experienced earlier that day had calmed to a soft, cool breeze. Chandeliers, strings of white lights, and blue spotlights cast a gentle light within the tent. An elegant meal was served to the guests by Tate and Tate Catering. The emcee of the event, Bruce Cummings, said that the event was a good opportunity to “put on some denim and diamonds and support the Museum.” A ticket for the raffle was drawn and



Auctioneer Johnna Wells was introduced and bidding started for the live auction items. Her high energy delivery pumped up the crowd. Trips to the Willamette River for fishing, Maui, Napa Valley for wine tasting, Indiana to see the Indy 500, Cancun, and Whistler received lots of bids. A personalized Michele watch, Hearts of Fire diamond necklace, a basket full of 30+ bottles of wine from the HDM Board, and a private party for 50 people at the Museum also did well. The item receiving the highest bid, at \$12,500, was a weeklong trip to a private villa in Italy with an unlimited supply of wine during the visit. After the live auction was over, a very well-produced video about the Museum was shown. Local author and desert environment supporter Ellen Waterston spoke next. She



High Desert Museum Area Updates from Summer 2015

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – Vivian Adams gave a lecture at the Museum about how the exhibit was developed. It features information that was important to her culture and from her personal perspective. While she was at the Museum, she met with team members and staff to discuss her feelings on what to do to improve the exhibit and the interpretative experience. She brought special gifts for the team, as is the custom of her people.

Naturalists – They have a full team and hope to continue their walks every day in the fall and winter - weather permitting. Inside talks will take place if weather is bad but they prefer to keep the action focused outside. The team is looking for a new Team Lead. The Naturalist's Walk is considered to be an introduction to the interpretive experiences available at the Museum.

Collections – They are excited about the upcoming *Tough by Nature: Portraits of Cowgirls and Ranch Women of the American West* exhibit. The oil, watercolor, and charcoal portraits portray real women still at work on ranches. The team has worked on getting together materials for the new exhibits on weather and Edward S. Curtis. They are also working on the upcoming exhibit on sage grouse. Burt Douglass recently made them a wooden box and he would be willing to make things for other areas in the Museum.

Birds of Prey - They had a good summer and the flight shows were particularly popular. They have recently trained two people and another volunteer expressed interest in joining the team. They would like to have at least one more volunteer plus "floaters" that could work when other members were out sick or on vacation. Volunteers can work at cleaning enclosures, giving talks, or both.

Mammals - The otter's exhibit area has closed and they are adjusting to being in a behind-the-scenes temporary space. Visitors are being told they are "on hiatus". The exhibit is scheduled to reopen by Memorial Day but may open earlier in the spring. The team lost one volunteer to retirement and another will be gone for four to six months. The talks on carnivores now take place in the hallway near the Desertarium. This team could also use some "floater" volunteers.

Wolf - A Wolf Talk will be given on Senior Day, October 13.

Living History - They have done a test run with the sawmill but there is no opening date set yet. Plans are being made for training and staffing the display. Living History volunteers had a lot of fun at *High Desert Rendezvous* in the gambling hall. They are looking forward to working at *All Hallows Eve* at the Museum on October 24.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - They have a new writer on the team whose work was featured in the front page article last month. After having one computer die in the middle of the publishing process and working on another one that is on its last legs, they are pleased to start working on a brand new computer. They are working on a future article about Edward S. Curtis based on the many events and exhibits taking place at numerous locations in Bend.

Silver Sage Trading Center – They will be doing inventory in the store on September 29 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm. They are trying to streamline the process and work at keeping better track of their merchandise. Several products available at the store were featured. A *Weather Science* kit and *Weather Station* kit provide hands on ways to learn about weather. A book by author Timothy Egan about Edward S. Curtis ties in with the Curtis exhibit. There is an interesting book about Oregon place names that tells the history of the names. Soap and facial masks made from local volcanic products make a unique gift. Bracelets and keychains made with horsehair accents have been very popular. There was a cute t-shirt for toddlers and babies featuring a drawing of a porcupine.

Admissions/Greeters – They had a great summer that was very busy. The Admissions team is excited to get new touch screen computers that incorporate membership information. In response to upcoming changes in credit cards, there is a chip card reader and a magnetic stripe card reader.

High Desert Ranger Station - The station was open for 69 days in the summer and team lead Les Joslin worked 20 of those days this summer. The team has grown from its initial group of three volunteers but still needs additional help out there. The station closed for the season on September 7

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

BEND, OREGON

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

2015



2015

Kitchen patrol: By Hand Through Memory

October

- 3 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- 3 **Weekend Workshop: Pika Research Field Trip.** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-payment required.
- 3 **Miller Family Harvest Festival.** 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- 9 **Member's Exhibit Opening: Tough by Nature: Portraits of Cowgirls and Ranch Women of the American West .** 6:00 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members Free; Guests \$5. RSVP.
- 11 **Exhibit Closing: Deadly by Nature.**
- 13 **Natural History Pub: Sage Grouse Endangered Species Listing Decision.** McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. RSVP.
- 13 **Senior Day.** Free Admission - Seniors 65 and older. 9:00 am.
- 16 **Opening Reception: Sage Grouse: Icon of the Sagebrush Sea.** 6:00 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members Free; Non-members \$5. RSVP.
- 17 **Cascade Carnivores.** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.
- 17 **Exhibit Opening. Sage Grouse: Icon of the Sagebrush Sea.** 10:00 am.
- 19 **Film Screening: In the Land of the Head Hunters.** Doors open at 6:30 pm. Screening starts at 7:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. RSVP.
- 24 **Tales of Hallows Eve.** 6:00 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. RSVP.
- 27 **Conversation Project: What We Want From the Wild.** 6:00 pm. Free. No-host bar. RSVP.
- 28 **Common Core training.** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- 31 **Wildlife Road Ecology: Highway Underpasses for Wildlife.** 8:00 - 11:00 am. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.

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

To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program

November — Save the Date!

- 1 **Winter hours begin & admission reduced.** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Adults \$12 ; 65+ \$10; Children ages 5 -12 \$7.
- 3 **Museum & Me.** 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm. RSVP.
- 5-6 **Teacher Training for Elementary Teachers: Into the Field: Exploring Environmental Issues through Inquiry.** 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Free, refundable deposit \$10 to reserve spot. Register www.highdesertmuseum.org/teacher-training . Contact Christina Cid at ccid@highdesertmuseum.org.
- 7 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- 7 **Lecture. Northwest Climate Mysteries: Past, Present, and Future.** 6:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. No-host bar. RSVP.
- 9-11 **Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training.** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
- 10 **Natural History Pub: The Environmental History of the Palouse Prairie.** McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. RSVP.
- 12-14 **Nature Writing Intensive.** Three-day workshop in partnership with the Writing Ranch. \$220. Registration and pre-payment required. **November 12:** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. **November 13:** 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. **November 14:** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- 14 **High Desert Raptors Watch.** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.
- 14 **Weekend Workshop: Fire Ecology.** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Paired pricing-one adult & one child. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Each additional participant \$5. Registration and pre-payment required.
- 14 **Doc & Connie Hatfield Sustainable Resource Lecture: Our Landscapes, Our Livestock, Ourselves.** Free. 7:00 pm. Reception 6:00 pm. RSVP.
- 21 **Cascade Carnivores.** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.
- 21 **High Desert Mining Day!** 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Museum admission plus \$2 per "miner".
- 26 **Museum closed.**