

HIGH DESERT VOICES

December 2016

News and Information published by and for Volunteers

Making “Sally Bags”: A Cultural Experience

by Imelda A. Cerillo, Newsletter Writer

‘A fine basket “reaches out with a richness of spirit that was poured into its creation, the soul of the tree still present and alive.” To learn from these baskets, we must not look at them as nostalgic remnants of dead and dying cultures, but rather as unique sources of insight into our world.’

*Columbia River Basketry
(Gift of the Ancestors, Gift of the Earth)
by Mary Dodds Schlick*



On November 12, 2016, Pat Courtney Gold, a world-renowned “Native American Fiber Artist and Basket Weaver”, shared a snippet of her culture and skill at the High Desert Museum. Pat’s baskets are exhibited in various museums in the United States, including the High Desert Museum and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Pat is a member of the Wasco Nation.

The Wasco people used to live along the Columbia River near The Dalles in Oregon. They now live at the Warm Springs Reservation in Central Oregon. The Wasco people are known for their flexible cylindrical baskets with beautiful geometric designs, which are made by using the full-turn twining technique. Natural plant fibers and, nowadays, commercial fibers make up the materials.



These baskets are known as “sally bags.” According to Pat, there are three schools of thought on the etymology of the term “sally.” Some believe that the term is derived from *Salix*, which is the scientific name of willows that provide the plant fibers used in making the sally bags. Others believe that the name immortalizes Wasco-style basket maker, Sally Wahkiacus. She was born about 1825 to a Wishxam mother and Klikitat father and lived upstream on the Klickitat River. Still others, including Pat, believe that “sally” comes from the Wasco word “sch-ka-lee” which the Europeans found too challenging and, therefore, settled for the easier word, sally.



Making a sally bag is in itself a cultural immersion experience. The base of the bag represents the earth, and the top, the sky. In between are depictions of human experiences and perceptions using symbols like human and animal figures, and intricate geometric designs based on ancient petroglyphs. Unfortunately, many of these ancient petroglyphs were submerged when The Dalles Dam was completed in 1957. Pat cautions basket makers who do not belong to the Wasco tribe, not to use human figures from petroglyphs as these are images of ancestors and are held very sacred by the Wasco people.

The harvesting of the materials used by the Wasco people in making sally bags involves a ritual of prayers of thanksgiving and solemn promise. Before harvesting special prayers to the plant and the habitat are said giving thanks for the bounty. After harvesting a sacred promise is made to continue to protect the habitat.

Sally Bags - continued



Photos by Damian Fagan & Lee Schaefer

Twelve pairs of eager hands participated in this workshop. They started out wanting to learn the skill of basket-making and ended up immersed in the 12,000-year-old art and culture of making sally bags. Thank you for sharing, Pat.



Kids discovered gold during Mining Days



Photos by Lee Schaefer

Museum Staff & Volunteer Holiday Party

December 7th 11:30 am-1:30 pm in classroom A

Soup and sandwiches provided

If you wish, bring cookies to share or exchange
You also may bring a white elephant gift to exchange



RSVP to Shannon by December 2nd
scampbell@highdesertmuseum.org



Visit Father Christmas

December 10th 11:00 am—3:00 pm

Bring a camera and take a holiday photo with Father Christmas. Our beloved 1880s character of holidays past will be waiting for your wish list in the historic ambience of the Spirit of the West.

Decorate your own cookie \$1 in classroom A

Sing along with Christmas carols performed
by the Thorn Hollow String Band
11:00 am - 2:00 pm



Tales of All Hallow's Eve!



Photos by Lee Schaefer & John Williams

High Desert Museum Area Updates from November 2016

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – The team has one new member. The sally basket making workshop went well. There were 12 paying participants. It was very well organized and a nice event. The team recently had their bi-annual group meeting and it went well.

Collections – They are doing condition reports on items that were borrowed for the upcoming World War II exhibit. There are some interesting pieces including a table made from scraps of wood by a detainee at the World War II Tule Lake Internment Camp.

Mammals - They have been putting materials together for the new *High Desert Hooves* talks. The props include mounted heads of bighorn sheep, pronghorn, and deer. Members of the team went on a *Mule Deer Migration* field trip near Camp Sherman. They learned interesting facts about deer from Jon Nelson and also from an Oregon Department Of Fish and Wildlife Game Warden.

Photography - There have been a lot of requests for pictures from members of the Photography Team while wearing vests inviting visitors to ask them to take their picture at the Museum. A couple members of the team have been working on adjusting the lighting to get better pictures of the upcoming Members' Appreciation Night. They are taking photos for the Adopt-an-Animal program and are still in need of photos of roosters and mustangs. Photographers are needed for the Father Christmas event on December 10. Please contact Damian at dfa-gan@highdesertmuseum.org if you can help.

Silver Sage Trading Center – They have two new volunteers on Thursdays. The team reminded us about the 20% off discount for members at the store that runs from November 25 to December 4. The store is looking for books to sell related to World War II and central Oregon. Let them know if you know of any books related to that subject matter. They are also looking for World War II artifacts that could be used in a display at the store. A PBS program about World War II in Oregon was mentioned.

There are many new items for sale at the store. A pop bottle science kit contains ideas for 79 projects. An Explore and Excavate kit for fossils is also available. There is a cute soft plush bunny toy. Christmas taffy and a Marionberry orange/lemon scone mix would make great stocking stuffers. Children's books include *Touch and Feel: Colors, Eye to Eye*, and *Why Do I Sing?* There are several scented candles in pretty containers for sale. There are many Christmas ornaments including ones shaped like cowboy boots and trees and enamelware items.

Birds of Prey - They have been training two people and one will likely stay in the area. They may be getting two new birds in the near future. They are looking for additional volunteers.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - The team has one new writer.

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Jon Nelson was thanked for going above and beyond the call of duty in November. He put in many hours at the Museum and helped guide off-site field trips. Kudos!

Writers Needed



The Newsletter Team is looking for additional writers. Please contact Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor, at Soybean@aol.com if you are interested.

High Desert Voices

Editor: Siobhan Sullivan

Team Leader: Siobhan Sullivan

Contributing Writers: Imelda Cerillo & Siobhan Sullivan

Proofreading/Editing: Phil Meurer

Computer: Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan

Photographs: Damian Fagan, Lee Schaefer, Siobhan Sullivan, & John Williams

Printing: Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan

Tales from an Oregon Wanderer: William L. Sullivan

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



On a warm night at the Sunriver Nature Center last summer, visitors packed the room and stood outside in a long line for a chance to listen to the guest speaker. Who were they waiting so eagerly for? Fifth-generation Oregonian and author, William L. Sullivan. There are many people that write about the wonders of Oregon, but few are as prolific. His 18 books cover a variety of topics but he is best known for his travel guides that cover different regions of the state.

As he was introduced to the crowd that night, we were reminded that he had trekked across Oregon many years ago. Sullivan's account of the 1,000-mile journey from the southwest corner of the state to the northeast corner can be found in his book, *Listening for Coyote*.

He also wrote a book about how he and his wife constructed a log cabin using only hand tools. They lived there for several years and still do so during summer months. Their account of that ongoing adventure can be read in *Cabin Fever: Notes from a Part-Time Pioneer*.

His recent lecture focused on destinations in eastern Oregon. His book, *100 Hikes/Travel Guide – Eastern Oregon*, was published in its third edition in 2015. Sullivan tries to visit the places he writes about once every seven years to see if any updates are needed. He stated that half of the hikes and attractions he covers in Oregon are located on the east side of the state.

William L. Sullivan is a great speaker with a good sense of humor. Here are a few tidbits from his talk that might inspire you in your explorations of eastern Oregon:

- Oregon has more ghost towns than any other state. One hundred years ago, the population in eastern Oregon was much higher than it is today and towns were abandoned as people moved on.
- There are 15 hot springs in eastern Oregon. They range from small hot pools to resorts with private soaking rooms.
- The evidence found in areas such as Paisley Lake and Fort Rock indicates people lived there more than 14,000 years ago.
- There are many ancient western juniper trees in the Oregon Badlands. One has been determined to be at least 1,600 years old.
- You can drive to an elevation of 9,500 feet on Steens Mountain. If the weather conditions are right, you can see five states from there.
- Oregon's first power plant was constructed in Sumpter in 1869. It included ten miles of wooden pipeline and that pipeline was still in use as late as 1969.



Photos by Siobhan Sullivan

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

BEND, OREGON

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

2016



2016

Kitchen Patrol: Spirit of the West/Photography Teams

| December | January 2017 - Save the Date! |
|---|---|
| <p>7 Lecture: <i>World War II Stories: A Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. Free for veterans, all active duty members, National Guard, & Reserve military and their families. RSVP.</p> <p>7 Museum Staff & Volunteer Holiday Party: 11:30 am-1:30 pm in classroom A. RSVP to Shannon by December 2nd. scampbell@highdesertmuseum.org</p> <p>10 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.</p> <p>10 Father Christmas. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Decorate cookies \$1.</p> <p>13 Off-site Event: <i>Natural History Pub: Geology of the High Desert.</i> McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. Free. RSVP.</p> <p>17 Weekend Workshop: <i>Woodworking.</i> 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Paired pricing for one adult and one child; Members \$10, Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-payment required.</p> <p>25 Museum Closed.</p> | <p>6 Evening Event: <i>Ladies' Night Out: An Evening of Music and Cowgirl Poetry.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$5, Non-members \$10. RSVP.</p> <p>7 Weekend Workshop: <i>Wildlife Photography.</i> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Members \$100, Non-members \$150. Registration and pre-payment required.</p> <p>8 Exhibit closing. <i>Ansel Adams: Masterworks.</i></p> <p>10 Off-site Event: <i>Natural History Pub: Environmental Migrations: Disasters, Climate Change, and the Rise in Refugees.</i> McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. Free. RSVP.</p> <p>14 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.</p> <p>14 Mining Day. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Museum admission plus \$2 per miner.</p> <p>19 Lecture: <i>Biodiversity Begins with a Bee.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.</p> <p>21 Free Day. 10:00 - 4:00 pm.</p> <p>27 Members' Exhibit Opening: <i>World War II: The High Desert Home Front.</i> 6:30 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members free, Member guest \$5. RSVP.</p> <p>28 Off-site Event: <i>Stomping with Snowshoes.</i> 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. Paired pricing for one adult and one child; Members \$10, Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-payment required.</p> <p>28 Exhibit Opening: <i>World War II: The High Desert Home Front.</i></p> <p>28 Museum & Me. 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Free for individuals, friends, & family. RSVP.</p> |