

Harvest Festival and Fur Trading Experience

by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer



Travel time between the early 1800's and 1904 was shorter than usual on Saturday, October 14. The 1904 Miller Ranch was in its usual place and time, but Museum visitors found a Hudson's Bay Company brigade camp just down the hill in the clearing near Cheney Pond.

Two small tents and a campfire made up the fur trappers' camp. One of the tents belonged to re-enactors Mark and Midori Hanus from Ridgefield, WA. They portrayed a Hudson's Bay Company fur trapper and his wife at the start of nine months of traveling to trap beavers. They spoke with visitors about typical trapper equipment, activities, and provisions.

Thin strips of meat hung near the fire to dry. The uninitiated (including myself) may have thought the trappers were making jerky, but Midori demonstrated how the dried meat would be pounded into a powder for making pemmican --the fur trader's version of a Power Bar.

Two other fur trappers joined the camp.

Ethan Mark, Associate Curator of Living History, and Steve Magidson, Living History volunteer, engaged visitors about details of the fur trapper's life; from why beavers were trapped in the winter when their fur is thicker, to what type of firearm trappers carried such as the Northwest Gun displayed near the Spirit of the West fur trapper diorama. Ethan demonstrated loading and firing the trapper's firearm, which could be heard all the way in 1904 at the Miller Ranch.



Harvest Festival—continued



As they hosted the Harvest Festival, the Miller family and friends seemed undisturbed by activities in the fur trappers' camp. Mrs. Miller, aka Linda Evans, Curator of Living History, supervised 20th century children who volunteered to dig potatoes in the garden. At the outdoor table, kids peeled hard-boiled eggs to help Erica Pelley, Associate Curator of Education, prepare them for pickling. In the sunshine at the entrance to the barn, Living History volunteers Frank Graham and William Berry, aka Ralph Berry, juiced apples in the hand-cranked cider press. Visitors observed the process and assisted by adding apples to the press's hopper.

In the cabin, Mrs. Harrington, aka Chris Moody, Living History volunteer, helped young folks make yarn dolls. Visitors to the ranch enjoyed the special projects as well as the usual business of porch sweeping and chicken observation.



Although both ranchers and trappers were concerned with winter provisions, the differences in their historical settings and how they spent the season must have meant they had slightly different priorities. The ranchers looked forward to a quiet season in a snug cabin, and the fur trappers geared up for their busy season of traveling and trapping. The close proximity of the ranch and the fur trappers' camp hopefully inspired Museum guests to compare how two different groups of people in the High Desert prepared for winter in two different historical periods.



Photos by Heather Duchow & Abbott Schindler

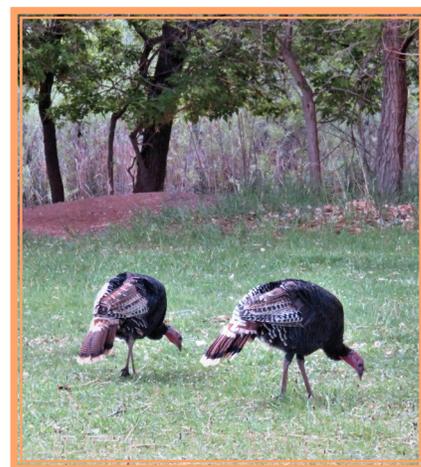


Photo by Siobhan Sullivan

High Desert Museum Area Updates from October 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Collections – The team has been busy counting keys for various cabinets, exhibit areas, and doors. They are considering rotating which team member attends the VAC meetings. Interviews for the Collections Manager position are ongoing.

Living History - Harvest Festival and the Fur Trading Experience events were a big success. Visitors learned about many things including running a sawmill, how pioneers made dolls, using flint and steel, and how pemmican was made. Thorn Hollow String Band set the mood by providing background music at the events. Visitors were engaged with all of the interactive activities. Two new volunteers will be participating in training for the Spirit of the West exhibit area. An exchange student from China plans to volunteer in the Hi Loy store in the exhibit. The next Mining Day will be on November 11.

Mammals - The baby otter has been playing with the other two otters on a part time basis. It may be several months before he is put in there full time. He is very playful and “plays like a puppy” with the other otters. His name is “Pitch.”

Naturalists – The team recently had a get together and show-and-tell. A video of a snowy owl catching a mouse at Malheur NWR was shown. An interesting piece of prehistoric wood was also shared. The team is hoping to have the nature table they have been working on completed sometime in December.

Photography - They have been busy photographing the events at the Miller Ranch and taking pictures of the new dinosaur exhibit. They have also taken pictures of the new peregrine falcon. Todd Cary hosted a workshop on flash photography since it can be challenging to photograph evening events at the Museum.

Gallery Attendants - The team participated in the tour of the new *Dinosaurs Take Flight: The Art of Archaeopteryx* exhibit. A “phenomenal” guide accompanies this traveling exhibit and it will help interpret the displays in this exhibit.

Silver Sage Gift Store – The store has many new items that would make great gifts. They reminded us that Museum members will receive a 20% discount at the store from November 24 through December 3. A small, brightly colored plush flying dinosaur is for sale. A limestone tile with branch-like dendritic markings looks like it came from prehistoric times. Vintage style Christmas ornaments shaped like ice skates are available. Pine-scented soaps and candles would make great small gifts. A CD called *Women of Jazz* is also for sale. The *Soups, Stews, and Breads* cookbook could help you make some tasty winter meals.

By Hand Through Memory – They have been working on refining their schedule. They have also been working at organizing some of the paperwork related to the exhibits. The team looks forward to working with a new volunteer who is going through training. He worked most recently at the High Desert Ranger Station, but at one time he was a minister at the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Birds of Prey - They are transitioning to working with fewer people since the seasonal staff is gone for the year. Staff have been working with the new peregrine falcon and hope to eventually use him in raptor encounters. They have also started to work with a new male raven. New volunteers are being trained to work in the area and veteran volunteers are returning after time away.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - They have three new volunteers and two team members are taking a break from the newsletter.

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in October. Special thanks to **Thomas King** for putting a new roof over the animal enclosures. Now staff and volunteers will not have to stand in the rain or snow when doing their work. Thanks to **Silver Plume Exhibitions LLC** for providing the 36-page docent guide to the new *Dinosaurs Take Flight: The Art of Archaeopteryx* exhibit. Staff and volunteers appreciated the tours provided by **Alanna Magovern**, the curator and creator of this travelling exhibit, and staff member **Louise Shirley**. **Aron Smolley** and **Laura McWhorter** led a raptor watch field trip to the Fort Rock and Christmas Valley area. People on the trip said that it was a great experience and that Aron was an “excellent” guide. They were thrilled to see ferruginous hawks, a bald eagle, American kestrels, and red-tailed hawks. **Kelly Hazen** was thanked for hosting the get together of the Naturalists team and for her snowy owl video. **Cathy Lang** was thanked for the food provided at the exhibit opening on October 13. The bread pudding made by **Chrissie Ganzer** for that event was “amazing.” **Claudia Nix** was thanked for putting in extra time training volunteers for the Birds of Prey area. **Kathy Roberts**, a Birds of Prey volunteer, has been doing a great job of decorating the kitchen area. The beautiful decorations always manage to include a bit of candy - much to the volunteer’s delight. Kudos to all of you!

Introducing Jim Boehlke, Living History VAC Representative

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



The new VAC member for Living History likes to put on miles, whether it's in a car or riding a bicycle or on foot.

In fact, Jim Boehlke and his wife, Marissa, spent five weeks in August and September walking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain.

At the High Desert Museum, Boehlke, which he pronounces Bowl-kee, might be better known as derby-wearing Jamie Swenson, a timber buyer from Minnesota, who hangs out at the sawmill out back. He might be recognized as the Silver City assayer in Spirit of the West.

Either way, at six-feet-four, straight and slender, he's hard to miss.

Jim was born in Chicago in 1951. After 12 years of good Catholic education, he attended St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting. He continued at Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane for two years, finishing up his JD degree at Drake University Law School in Des Moines. "But I never practiced law," he says.

He worked for a time as a meat cutter to help get through law school. "I can still keep a knife sharp," he says. Both parents died early, his father at 61 and his mother at 58.

He was a Certified Public Accountant, but, Jim says, "I called myself a tax attorney." He speaks rapidly; his face seems always to carry a smile that hints at both confidence in himself and amusement at what he says.

After Drake University, Jim headed to Portland, but his dad called and asked him to return home to help run a new business called American Pouch Foods. It was an unlikely enterprise that pulled together the work of several large companies which had developed the Meal Ready to Eat, the famous--or infamous--MRE. With financial backing from Chinese-American/Canadian and Black Muslim investors, the company received the largest government guaranteed loans ever awarded to a minority enterprise and a "massive government contract" to provide field rations for the U.S. Army. Not surprisingly, it had a largely African American and Chinese work force.

"In three months," Jim says, "the firm grew from 26 employees to 1,200 but lasted only 18 months before going under."

Jim came west again, settling in Albany for two years in the early '80s, and in his first chief financial officer (CFO) position, began his life-long interest in sawmill equipment and operation. Then he went to Seattle for "the best job I ever had." His smile widens. For five years, he was involved in the historical renovations in the iconic Pioneer Square.

Through the years, he held a number of financial positions in a couple of start-ups and a couple of companies the economy simply frowned on. He counts the failed ones on his fingers: four. One was a Portland outfit attempting to design and build electric cars. He did spend 17 years at NW Natural, the natural gas utility in Portland and, finally, as CFO at a Hillsboro firm that developed fiber optic perimeter-security systems for places like military air bases.

Jim had visited Bend in the '70's, and loved the place. So, in 2009, while still working in the Portland area, Jim and Marissa bought a home in River Meadows, southwest of Sunriver. He retired there in 2013.

The next year he and Marissa bought a small travel trailer, and began what she calls "The Great Adventure." For nine weeks, they drove the historic Route 66 from west to east and then on to New England and the Canadian Maritimes, passing through 21 states and all but two of the Canadian provinces. Both Jim and Marissa are also avid road bikers and active in Cycle Oregon events.

In 2016, Jim became a volunteer at the High Desert Museum.

"I'm a huge history geek," Jim admits. With that interest and his knowledge of sawmills, it seems natural that he would become "Jamie Swenson," as part of the Museum's Living History. Jamie is a timber buyer from Minnesota, bringing his business to the budding mill town of Bend in 1904.

"I've researched all I can find on Bend in 1904, including reading most of the Bend Bulletins for that year," he says

"But I rarely get to use my Jamie Swenson character," Jim says. "The business of timber-buying is too complex. People want to know about the sawmill."

In the winter when the sawmill closes, Jim comes inside and becomes the Silver City assayer in the Spirit of the West exhibit. Following his love for authenticity, he researched and visited Silver City, ID, and “learned assaying, which was tougher than learning about saw mills,” he says.

“I’ve loved the High Desert Museum for many years,” he says, “and I tout it at every opportunity. We have guests from all over the world and the U.S. It’s fun talking to them.”

In addition to his hunger for history, Jim is a “geography enthusiast,” and a “trivia aficionado.”

So after the 500-mile trek he and Marissa made in Spain, it seems natural that Jim would read up on the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930’s. “It was a truly horrible conflict,” he says.

“I should have been a history professor.”

Photo by Damian Fagan

Old and Cool - The Pacific Lamprey

by Raven Tennyson, Newsletter Writer



At the October Natural History Pub at McMenamins, fish biologist Matt Fox talked about the Pacific lamprey. If I had counted the number of times Fox said “cool” in his talk, I might have thought I was talking to the Dalai Lama turned hippie. Fox obviously loves this fish which he has been watching for over a decade. Fox’s earthy, humorous nature and engaging stories peaked my interest about this parasitic fish.

Evolutionarily, the lamprey dates back to 450 million years ago, older than sturgeon which originated 200 million years ago. During this time period, the lamprey adapted to the Columbia River basin by being anadromous. Anadromous fish migrate up rivers from the sea to spawn.

Living half its life in freshwater and half in the ocean, lampreys lay eggs in silt substrates in side tributaries of the Columbia. A month after the eggs are deposited, young ammocetes emerge and live for the first three to seven years in silt gravel beds. In these beds, they anchor their tails in the substrate and sway upright in the moving water as they filter feed. Leaving the silt beds as small 6-inch fry, they begin their journey to the ocean. Okay, here is what is cool about the lamprey. They are long, skinny and attach themselves with a jawless sucking mouth to other fish to feed on their host. They are just parasitic in nature. Their oral disk helps them eat and travel along the waterways as they return back to fresh water to spawn.



Biologists like Fox and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla have worked hard to help these fish return to their spawning areas by creating specially designed metal spillways enabling these fish to navigate past obstacles. These fish are the extreme sport athletes of the underwater world. They climb vertical walls with their mouths while water spills over them in the dark. How amazing is that?

This year 1,500 fish returned upstream, double the number from 2016. The tribes collect lampreys at Willamette Falls near Oregon City and the Bonneville Dam. The tribes collect the lampreys by driving them upstream to their traditional spawning grounds in the Umatilla River, where they are pulled from the rocks by hand. These joint efforts keep the lamprey from becoming endangered. To see a video of how Native Americans harvest lampreys, click [here](#).

In addition to the Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama, and Nez Perce tribes hold a cultural and historically significant reverence for these fish. They were a “first food” for these tribes.

So if you are looking for an interesting day trip in search of local wildlife, head on over to Bonneville Dam on the Columbia to see these fish in the fish viewing area during migration. Or if you choose a closer option, look for them in the Autzen Otter exhibit area of the Museum where you can get a close-up view of these amazing, prehistoric fish.

Photos by Abbott Schindler



Dinosaurs Take Flight: The Art of *Archaeopteryx* Exhibit

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



There's something about dinosaurs that fascinates children and mesmerizes adults. This new exhibit focuses on a moment in time, about 150 million years ago, when feathered dinosaurs began taking to the skies to become birds. *Archaeopteryx* is the oldest-known representative of the link between dinosaurs and birds since it has characteristics of both.

Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. The discovery of *Archaeopteryx* fossils two years later helped fill



a "missing link" in his theory of evolution. A fossil of a single feather was discovered in Germany in 1861 and it was classified as coming from the first bird. The creature it came from was named *Archaeopteryx lithographica*. All known specimens have been found in lithographic limestone sediments in Germany.

The first *Archaeopteryx* skeleton, known as the London Specimen, was unearthed in 1861. A more complete skeleton, known as the Berlin Specimen, was found in 1874. This specimen is the one you have likely seen in an iconic photograph. The original owner had sold it to get enough money to purchase a cow. It was originally thought to be a pterosaur fossil. Another *Archaeopteryx*, known as the Haarlem Specimen, was pulled from a quarry in 1855 but it was not determined to be an *Archaeopteryx* until many years later. In 1972 Yale University's John Ostrom noticed an unusual feature on the fossil. Feathers! Reproductions of these and several other other specimens, accompanied by their stories, are part of this exhibit.



The only actual specimen of *Archaeopteryx* on display in America is located in Thermopolis, WY at the [Wyoming Dinosaur Center](#). It is on extended loan to the Center and is considered to be the most complete and well-preserved of the 12 specimens.

Differences in the toes of this specimen led scientists to classify it as a different species - *Archaeopteryx siemensii*.

This exhibit is interesting in a unique way since it blends together art and science. There are dramatic paintings, sculptures, and words about *Archaeopteryx* in the displays. Artwork is always incorporated into exhibits, but this exhibit goes a step beyond that. It shows the stages an artist goes through to produce a work of art. Crude sketches become refined and are eventually incorporated into works ranging from large murals to delicate bronze sculptures.



There are several three-dimensional pieces of art in this exhibit. When I viewed *Curiosity*, a bronze sculpture of an *Archaeopteryx* hunting a lizard, a young child in the background was satisfying her own curiosity while playing with toy dinosaurs. One of the displays shows a detailed sculpture of an adult and nestling *Archaeopteryx*. The artist used numerous feathers from modern-day birds to create a sense of realism. A lot of time and thought went into producing the artwork in this exhibit.



Paintings show *Archaeopteryx* flapping their wings, fishing, and diving. A large colorful mural on the back wall shows a parade of various bird-like Maniraptora creatures marching by. One of the paintings shows a series of images running across a canvas. It starts out with a small theropod dinosaur and the images gradually change into a modern-day blue jay. The science is shown through the art.

Archaeopteryx—continued



One of my favorite details in this exhibit, were the examples of childhood artwork from the various artists. You can see glimpses of talent the exhibit artists had, even as young children. Young visitors may be inspired to draw more dinosaurs after seeing these displays. Seeing this part of the exhibit might make you feel justified for keeping numerous examples of your children's artwork.

This exhibit also contains several actual fossils representing various animals. You can see fossils of horseshoe crab, shrimp, lobsters, and delicate brittle stars. Insect fossils include dragonflies, damsel dragonflies, beetles, and wood wasps. Fish, squid, and spiral-shelled ammonite fossils are also displayed. There is even a squiggly little fossil identified as “ammonite poop.”

This exhibit might inspire you to try your hand at digging for fossils. Who knows? Maybe one day you might find a specimen that will fascinate and mesmerize people for years to come.



Photos by Heather Duchow, Abbott Schindler, Siobhan Sullivan, & John Williams

Senior Day!



High Desert Voices

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Photos by Todd Cary



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2017



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November	December - Save the Date!
1 Winter hours begin. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.	9 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
2 Museum Event: <i>The Origin and Evolution of Feathers and Flight.</i> 6:00 pm, doors open at 5:45 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, non-members \$7. RSVP.	
3-4 Museum Event: <i>A Night at the High Desert Museum.</i> Friday, 5:00 pm through Saturday, 9:00 am. Members \$75, Non-members \$85.	
4 Museum & Me. 4:00-7:00 pm. Free. RSVP.	
9 Museum Event: <i>Cowgirl Poetry Night.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$7, non-members \$12. RSVP.	
11 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	
11 Museum Event: <i>Mining Day.</i> 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Museum Admission plus \$2/miner.	
14 Natural History Pub: <i>Sagebrush Steppe Restoration: Challenges and Opportunities.</i> 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMennamins, Bend. Free. RSVP.	
18 Off-site Field Trip: <i>Mule Deer Migration.</i> 7:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.	
18 Weekend Workshop: <i>How Dinosaurs Came to Fly: Drawing the Clues.</i> 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required.	
21 VAC meeting. 2:00 pm in the Board Room. All volunteers are welcome!	
23 Museum Closed. Happy Thanksgiving!	
29 Museum Event: <i>Learning From Nature: Biomimicry in Action.</i> 6:00 pm, doors open at 5:45 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, non-members \$7. RSVP.	
<p>To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or 541-382-4754. To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program</p>	