

## **High Desert Rendezvous 2017**

*by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor*

On August 26, visitors gathered at the High Desert Museum to enjoy an evening filled with music, games, a live and silent auction, a raffle, and a special dinner served under a large festively-decorated tent. Staff greeted visitors outside the doors with wildlife ambassadors from the Museum's collection. The *Rendezvous* event was sold out this year. The funds collected will benefit the educational programs at the Museum.

There were a wide variety of items up for auction this year. At the silent auction, there were gift certificates from local stores, restaurants, and recreational facilities. Participants could bid on beverages from local breweries, wineries, and spirits businesses. There were sparkling sunstone earrings, animal spirit pins, turquoise pendants, and jewelry made from reclaimed pieces. Bidders could relax for a minute in a big recliner that was up for auction as they decided what to bid on. Artwork exhibited in the *Art in the West* was also up for auction. See the article on page four for more about that exhibit.



The silent auction also included several adventures. There were tickets to the symphony in Eugene, a day golfing at Black Butte Ranch, a whitewater rafting trip, a date night in Bend, and tickets for the Pendleton Round Up. There were trips to Brasada Ranch, Sunriver Resort, to Portland for a Portland Timbers or Portland Trailblazers game, and to Pasadena for the Rose Parade. Also up for auction was a Paddle and Brew adventure for 10 adults. The Bend Research Science Night for 50 kids and 25 adults would appeal to families. The High Desert Museum offered a trip for raptor watching at Fort Rock, a two-day trip in eastern Oregon with two curators, a class in metal sculpting with a curator, a curator-led tour of the vaults, a private raptor show, and a family movie night at the Museum for 20 people.

The live auction included 13 items this year. The items included several trips such as a guided fishing trip, an off-road motorcycle adventure, a helicopter tour and dinner, a trip to a beach house at Gearhart, a trip to New Zealand, a trip to Bali, and a trip to Maui. There was a collection of 13 red wines and also a collection of 40+ wines from the Museum's Board of Trustees. Special evening events up for auction included a wild salmon and wine dinner, an evening with wildlife expert Peter Gros of *Wild Kingdom* fame and Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, and a dinner at the 1904 Miller Family Ranch, complete with stories and music of the Old West. Last but not least, some lucky bidder now has the honor of naming the Museum's new baby otter and being a curator for a day.

There was a nice meal and hors d'oeuvres provided by Tate and Tate Catering. The meal included a baby greens and arugula salad, strip steak with a green peppercorn sauce, shallot confit salmon, grilled vegetables, and a blueberry-peach cobbler. Beverages from several local businesses were also provided.







Living History interpreters oversaw games of chance for those looking for fun diversions in the Cowboy Lounge. Games included Faro, Keno, Over & Under, and Chuck-A-Luck.

After the live auction, the band *Dry Canyon Stampede* provided some country western music for dancing. Lots of participants stomped their feet and kicked up their heels to the rocking rhythms and moving ballads of this seven-piece band.

A good time was had by all. Thanks to all of the sponsors, staff, and volunteers that made this event possible.



Photos by Todd Cary & Heather Duchow

### **In Memoriam to Barbara Dickey** *by Shannon Campbell, Volunteer Coordinator*

Barbara Dickey, who recently passed away, spent nearly 3000 hours at the museum from 2000-2011 in Admissions, Living History, and Education. She was a “hooker and crafter,” part of the volunteer newsletter team and the Volunteer Advisory Council, and chaired the Pacific Northwest Docents and Volunteers Association.



## A Tour of the Bend Seed Extractory

by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer



You may have been to the Deschutes National Forest headquarters on Bend's east side. Most of us go there to purchase forest passes or maps. Have you ever wondered about all the other buildings in the complex? One recent Thursday afternoon, Nature Team volunteers got to tour one building that is paradise for native plant nerds: the Bend Seed Extractory. Louise Shirley, the Donald M. Kerr Curator of Natural History and the staff contact for the Nature Team, made the arrangements.

Sarah Garvin, Assistant Manager of the Bend Seed Extractory, greeted our group of about ten people with enthusiasm. First, she shared a bit of history about the extractory. It started as part of the United States Forest Service (USFS) Bend Pine Nursery, extracting seeds from pinecones to grow conifer seedlings. When the Bend Pine Nursery ceased op-

erations in 1999, the extraction equipment remained. The Bend Seed Extractory started offering seed extraction services on contract, and the machinery was put to use processing seeds from a wider variety of native plants. Today, the Bend Seed Extractory is still run by the USFS, but it processes native plant seeds for all types of government agencies located throughout the U.S. Agencies ship plant material from all over the country to the Bend Seed Extractory. The Bend Seed Extractory extracts, cleans, tests, packages, and stores or returns the seeds. The finished seeds are used to restore native plant communities across the nation.

Sarah showed us several samples of the "raw material" that arrives at the facility. We didn't get to see the yucca that had just arrived, but there were pea-like pods from lupine, tulip-shaped columbine seedpods, and native allium seed heads. The showstopper was the milkweed pod with its seeds, neatly arranged like fish scales, surrounding a core of silky, fluffy floss. This brought back childhood memories! The joys of disrupting that perfect pattern and setting the fluff floating across the yard were lost on my father, who saw this as akin to blowing dandelion seed heads. Little did he know I was feeding the monarch caterpillars.

Sarah explained that the extraction and cleaning process is different for every plant. It can even vary between batches of seeds from the same plant species. Most processes combine some type of agitation (shaking or brushing) with a way to separate the chaff from the seed (based on size or weight). Sometimes it's as simple as breaking open cones by hand and using a mesh sieve to separate the seeds from the scales.



Whitebark pinecones are processed this way, and the air was filled with their aroma on the day we visited. Other seeds may require many more steps and more delicate treatment. Anything that would prevent seeds from "flowing" in mechanical planting equipment needs to be removed. Wings, hairs, and hooks must all come off, but the seed coat must not be damaged. Sarah showed us the different machines that shake, brush, tumble, screen and sift. Each one is useful for different seed types or at different steps in an extraction process.







After seeds are extracted, there are a number of quality checks to make sure the Bend Seed Extractory returns seed that is likely to germinate and grow. They don't want to send out seeds with insect larvae in them or seeds that haven't developed enough to be viable, so they use an X-ray machine to look inside the seed coat. Other quality checks are done, and the seed is packaged for storage or for returning to the agency that collected it.

The native plant enthusiasts on the Nature Team enjoyed touring a facility that is instrumental for plant community conservation and restoration. Thanks to Louise for taking us on a wonderful field trip.

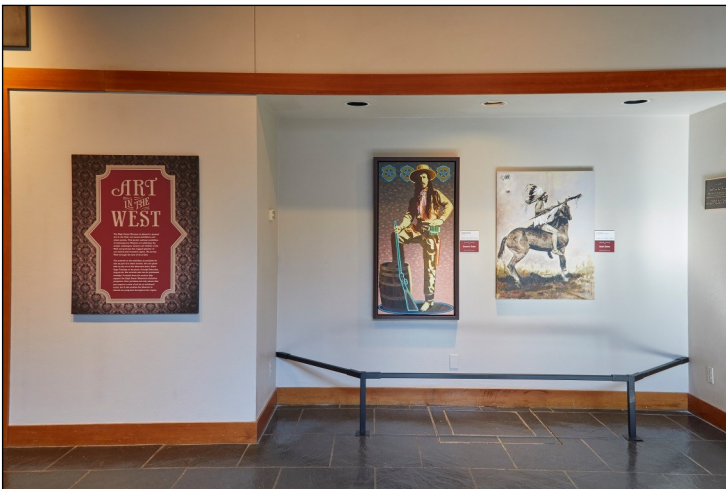
The Nature Team hopes to make more outings. Volunteers expressed interest in visiting Wintercreek Native Plant Nursery and the Oregon Badlands Wilderness. We will keep you posted about those adventures.



Photos by Heather Duchow

## Art in the West Exhibit

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Art in the West Award winners Michael Blessing & Ben Pease

The artwork in the *Art in the West* exhibit this year reflects the true spirit of the West. Photographs and paintings in a variety of media depict images of the land and the people who call it home. Animals, both wild and domesticated, are also prominently featured in this exhibit. The artists captured the rugged beauty and soul of this part of the country.

The art pieces in this exhibit were for sale prior to August 26. On August 26, the pieces were part of a silent auction at the *Rendezvous* event. Some pieces were purchased outright prior to the auction. Funds collected from the sales help support the High Desert Museum's education program. The buyer receives a beautiful work of art and they also help the Museum extend its programs throughout the region.





Art in the West-continued



Artist Katherine Taylor



Artist Ken Roth



Artist Kyle Paliotto

Photos by Todd Cary, Abbott Schindler, & John Williams



Don't forget to attend the  
**Volunteer Recognition Event** on  
September 12, 2017 at 5:30—7:30 pm  
Come join us for the celebration!  
Dinner, drinks, & dessert provided

RSVP by September 4

<http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/volunteer-appreciation-night>



# Metolius River - Recreation in Our Backyard

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



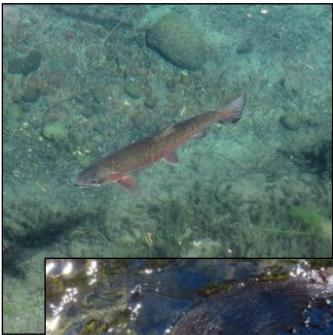
In the shadow of Black Butte, water flows out of a hole in the ground and turns into a fast-moving river known as the Metolius. You can take a walk on a short paved trail to the headwaters, located about 14 miles northwest of Sisters, Oregon. Pine forests enclose the two clusters of springs where this 315-square mile drainage basin begins.

Since the water level is relatively constant, it has a couple interesting characteristics. The flow rate at the headwaters is 6,700 cu ft/min and it reaches 81,000 cu ft/min by the time it reaches Lake Billy Chinook, 28.6 miles away. The water temperature is consistently at about 48° F. Brrr!



The river supports a healthy population of fish including rainbow trout, bull trout, kokanee, and mountain whitefish. There is catch-and-release fly-fishing on the upper Metolius. Click [here](#) for more information on fishing there. [Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery](#), 10.6 miles from the headwaters, raises rainbow trout, kokanee, and salmon.

There are almost a dozen campgrounds located along the river. There are also several resorts near the small unincorporated town of Camp Sherman.



Trails border the river and branch out into surrounding areas. Hikers, hunters, horseback riders, skiers, and snowshoers enjoy the many miles of trails here. Spring wildflowers and fall foliage are particularly beautiful around this river.



There is a wide variety of wildlife that lives in the habitats near the river. River otter and beaver live in and around the river and other mammals such as mule deer, elk, black bear, bobcat, cougar, and squirrel live in the vicinity. Birds such as osprey, grouse, herons, and many songbirds use the area. Look for the small American dipper bird foraging along the river. The East Cascades Audubon Society hosts the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival in this general area in June. There are about a dozen species of woodpeckers here so the event draws people from near and far. Click [here](#) for more information on the festival.



This National Wild and Scenic River flows through land owned by Deschutes National Forest, Deschutes Land Trust, Warm Springs Indian Reservation, and private owners. Click [here](#) to find out about some of the recreational opportunities on Forest Service lands.



Photos by Siobhan Sullivan

## High Desert Museum Area Updates from August 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

**Living History** - The team will now be represented at VAC meetings by Jim Boehlke. Living History had a team party on August 12 and it was outstanding. It was probably the busiest summer at the Miller Ranch in nearly ten years. More people are visiting the Ranch and they're staying longer. The Lazinka Sawmill had its last demonstration of the summer on August 12. When the new woodshop is constructed, the blacksmith will move into the shop's previous quarters.

**Admissions/Greeters** – They are making sure there will be plenty of people working on the days around the solar eclipse. They have a good strong staff.

**Photography** - Team members have been keeping busy taking pictures as requested. One of the new pollinator stamps put out by the U.S. Postal Service has pictures of a honeybee photographed by George Lepp. He led several photography workshops at the Museum this year. Photographers whose work is selected by USPS get a small royalty payment from each sale.

**Naturalists** – Work continues on their new display table.

**High Desert Voices Newsletter** - They have a new writer who will help write wildlife-related articles. The team is looking for more writers to cover events and exhibits.

**Silver Sage Gift Store** – There was a marble jar that parents could use to reward good behavior. A coloring book on High Desert reptiles would interest kids who could color the drawings and learn about the species. A nice stainless steel water bottle with the Museum's logo is now available. There is a beautiful t-shirt with a solar eclipse picture and a funny one with a turkey vulture silhouette that says "Keep Calm and Carry On." The store has small plush honey bee and ladybug toys. Small jars of Oregon honey in five different flavors would make a great gift. There are small packages of salted toffee almonds. There are boxed sets of colorful stationery. The new baby otter is featured on cards with pictures by Lee Schaefer. Dan Rickards photos are available on cards and as prints.

**By Hand Through Memory** – New team member, Aldine Thornton, was introduced at the VAC meeting. She is helping out with some of the Plateau Indian exhibits. Aldine is making sure information is properly presented to the public. She is a member of the Lakota tribe. One member of their team is skilled in flint knapping obsidian (making arrowheads, spear points, etc.) and an avenue to share that skill is being researched. A request was made for a notebook with brief stories about each the blankets in the blanket tower.

**Collections** – The team is looking forward to getting a new staff leader. They continue their work cleaning artifacts. Most of the feathers in the Museum's collections have been documented.

### Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in August. **Living History interns** did an awesome job this summer. **Teen volunteers** did great work this summer. **Steve Magidson** was thanked for serving as VAC Chair for the last year. He noted that he understands far more about the role of the chair now that he has served in that position. **Linda Evans** and **Ethan Mark** were thanked for putting on a great party for the Living History volunteers. They put a lot of time into the party and it was a great event. New volunteer, **Aldine Thornton**, thanked the Museum for being so welcoming and getting right back to her after she filled out an online inquiry form. She noted that **Sigrid von Hurst** has been terrific to work with. **Louise Shirley** was thanked for organizing the field trip to the Bend Seed Extractory for the Naturalist Team. Kudos to all of you!

#### High Desert Voices

**Editor:** Siobhan Sullivan

**Team Leader:** Siobhan Sullivan

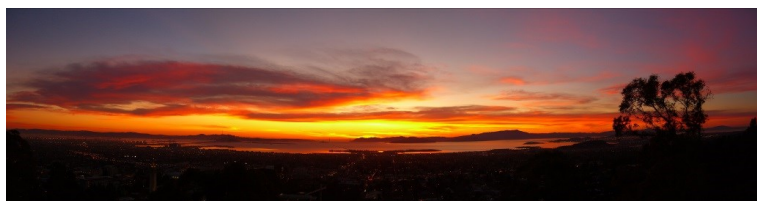
**Contributing Writers:** Shannon Campbell, Heather Duchow, & Siobhan Sullivan

**Proofreading/Editing:** Phil Meurer

**Computer:** Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan

**Photographs:** Todd Cary, Heather Duchow, Abbott Schindler, & John Williams

**Printing:** Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan





**HIGH  
DESERT  
MUSEUM**  
BEND, OREGON

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

2017



2017

September	October - Save the Date!
2 <b>Exhibit opening:</b> <i>Innovation Lab: Design Inspired By Nature.</i>	7 <b>Museum Workshop:</b> <i>Introduction to Canning.</i> 10:30-12:00pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.
2 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>International Culture Awareness Day.</i> 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Lecture on vultures & lead poisoning at 3:30 Birds of Prey encounter.	10 <b>Natural History Pub:</b> <i>The Pacific Lamprey: Old Fish, New Insights.</i> 7:00-9:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMennamins, Bend. Free. RSVP.
8 <b>Museum Workshop:</b> <i>Native Wildlife: Photography and Conservation Workshop.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. \$150 members; Non-members \$200. SOLD OUT.	13 <b>Members' Preview:</b> <i>Dinosaurs Take Flight: The Art of Archaeopteryx.</i> 6:30-8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members free, guests \$5. RSVP.
9 <b>Museum Workshop:</b> <i>Native Wildlife: Photography and Conservation Workshop.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. \$150 members; Non-members \$200. SOLD OUT.	14 <b>Exhibit opening:</b> <i>Dinosaurs Take Flight: The Art of Archaeopteryx.</i>
9 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	14 <b>Off-site Field Trip:</b> <i>High Desert Raptor Watch.</i> 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.
12 <b>Volunteer Recognition Event.</b> 5:30 -7:30 pm.	14 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Fur Trading Experience.</i> 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Free.
12 <b>Natural History Pub:</b> <i>Bats and White-nose Syndrome.</i> 7:00 -9:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMennamins, Bend. Free. RSVP.	14 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Harvest Festival.</i> 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Free.
13 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Women in Motion, 1850—1920: Was Sportswear a Woman's Right?</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Doors open 5:45 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, non-members \$7. RSVP.	14 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
14 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Teachers' Night Out.</i> 6:00-8:00 pm. Special programs start at 5:30 pm. Free to educators & administrators. RSVP.	15 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Fur Trading Experience.</i> 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Free.
19 <b>VAC meeting.</b> 2:00 pm in the Board Room. All volunteers are welcome!	17 <b>VAC meeting.</b> 2:00 pm in the Board Room. All volunteers are welcome!
23 <b>Off-site Event:</b> <i>Discover Nature Festival.</i> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Free. Riverbend Park, 799 SW Columbia St., Bend.	18 <b>Senior Day.</b> Free admission for visitors 65 and older.
28 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Hatfield Sustainable Resource Lecture.</i> 7:00-9:00 pm. Doors open at 6:45 pm. No-host bar. Free. RSVP.	28 <b>Museum Event:</b> <i>Tales of Hallows' Eve.</i> 6:00-8:00 pm. Members \$3, non-members \$7. RSVP.
30 <b>Museum Workshop:</b> <i>Basketry Workshop: Small Plateau Style Wallet Weaving Workshop with Pat Courtney Gold.</i> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Members \$55, non-members \$60. RSVP.	
	<b>To RSVP:</b> <a href="http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp">www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp</a> or 541-382-4754
	<b>To pre-register:</b> <a href="http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/program">www.highdesertmuseum.org/program</a>