



High Desert Voices

A newsletter published by and for volunteers

October 2019



2019 Volunteer Recognition Event

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



On the evening of September 16, volunteers gathered at a Museum event to recognize their work over the past year. This event offers a great opportunity for mixing and mingling with fellow volunteers and staff. The weather was cool and cloudy as volunteers gathered just outside the entrance. As everyone entered the Museum, slides of volunteers at work were projected in the background.

Dinner was provided by Cody's Catering on this special night. The dinner included baked potatoes, barbecued meats, roasted vegetables, green salad, fresh fruit, and cookies and brownies.

Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Campbell welcomed the volunteers. She thanked everyone who helped with this event including Gail Hodge, Dana Whitelaw, and many members of the staff. Shannon noted that it was a record year for the number of volunteer hours worked as well as a record year for the number of Museum visitors. This year the Museum added the Otter Attendant position and opened the woodshop. They also made a concerted effort to increase diversity and inclusion. Shannon said, "Every single thing you do here contributes and it makes a huge difference." She said that the purpose of this event is to "welcome and celebrate all the wonderful things you have shared with us in the last fiscal year." Shannon thanked all of the volunteers.

Here are some interesting facts from the past year. There were 218 adult volunteers working at the Museum. Twelve volunteers went through the Certified Interpretive Guide training this year. There were 52 new volunteers who joined the Museum. The High Desert Rendezvous had its best year yet. The Museum made over \$540,000 from this fundraiser.

The snake board, created by volunteer Burt Douglass, was highlighted at this event. This large wood piece, accentuated with holes and protruding tree stems, is like a playground for snakes in the Museum's collection.

Ten volunteers were recognized for their work at the Museum in a separate ceremony. There are 22 teens that participated in various areas of the Museum this year. The teens recognized this year were **Rachael McCann** (Teen Volunteer of the Year), **Tessa Orr** (Rookie Teen of the Year), **Bodhi Williams** (Kids Camp Teen of the Year), and **Lyndsie and Kelsie Russell** (Behind-the-Scenes Teens of the Year). They were thanked for their work with visitors to the Museum. The award winners served as role models for all of the teens.



Volunteers who worked a certain number of hours were given **Milestone** pins and gift certificates. Recipients this year included: **Laurel Brennan, Jonny Goddard, and Jean Noosinow** with 1,000 hours, **Sylvia Collins, Thaddeus Grudzien, and Sigrid von Hurst** with 2,000 hours, **Jane Lind and Lynda Paznokas** with 3,000 hours, and **Carol Douglass, Debbie Klotz, Sara Langton, and Ann McGranahan** with 4,000 hours. **Christine Frey** has worked 6,000 hours. **Linda Meurer and Suzanne Staples** worked 500 or more hours in the last fiscal year.



Front row: Carol Douglass, Sylvia Collins, Sara Langton, Debbie Klotz, Ann McGranahan, and Sigrid von Hurst Back row: Jonny Goddard, Christine Fey, Linda Meurer, and Suzanne Staples

Volunteer Recognition-continued

Executive Director Dana Whitehouse thanked volunteers for all of their hard work. She handed out three Director's Awards. **Jean Bennett** (Collections, BHTM), **Les Joslin** (High Desert Ranger Station), and the **Collections Team** were recognized with this award.



Director's Award - Jean Bennett



Director's Award - Les Joslin



Director's Award - Collections Team. Don Mercer, Muriel Carbiener, Ginny Haarberg, Jean Bennett, Nancy Horton, & Marla Hill

The Seasonal Volunteer of the Year is **Shannon Pozovich** (Mammals).
The (Dynamic Duo) Volunteers of the Year is **Kathy Spurlock and Laurel Brennan** (Admissions).



Seasonal Volunteer of the Year- Shannon Pozovich



(Dynamic Duo) Volunteers of the Year- Kathy Spurlock & Laurel Brennan

The Behind the Scenes Volunteer of the Year is **Steve Murray** (Wildlife).
The Rookie of the Year is **Jim Burrows** (Wildlife Interpretation).



Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer of the Year-Steve Murray



Rookie of the Year-Jim Burrows



Volunteer of the Year
Jean Noosinow

The Volunteer of the Year is **Jean Noosinow**. She works with the Gallery Attendants, Nature, and Silver Sage Gift Store teams. In the four years Jean has volunteered at the Museum, she has worked over 1,000 hours. Jean is the Team Lead for Gallery Attendants and represents the team at VAC meetings. Before working at the High Desert Museum, she served 30 years as an art docent at several museums. Jean actively engages Museum visitors with her knowledge of, and passion for, art.

All the volunteers were thanked at the end of the evening for their amazing contributions to the Museum. A big thanks goes out to all of the staff members that helped put this event together.

Photos by Todd Cary & Dave Gilbert

Introducing Kelsey Ward, Assistant Curator of Education

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



What gets Kelsey Ward really fired up is taking a passel of kids on a science field trip in and around the High Desert Museum.

For the youngest, 3- to 5-year old members of “Backpack Explorers,” she might use dull little chisels to teach them how porcupines use their teeth.

Older kids might learn about fire ecology, or watershed science, or habitat adaptation of desert dwellers.

That’s a lengthy way of saying that Kelsey loves her job as the High Desert Museum’s assistant curator of education, a job she’s held for about two years.

What hits you first about Kelsey is her big smile. Her whole face smiles, revealing perfect teeth. What hits you next is her hair, falling absolutely straight to well below her shoulders. It holds touches of brown, hints of gold.

Kelsey was born in Seattle in 1990, but, except for a brief time as a baby in Madison,

Wisconsin, she has been a west-coast girl all her life. She grew up in Corvallis. She has a sister, Jane, who is about 18 months younger. Her father, Ken, is a chemist for Hewlett Packard; her mother, Lynn, is a nurse at Oregon State.

Growing up, Kelsey says she was driven to excel at everything she did. She loved science, athletics, and music. She took up the cello in the fourth grade and was part of a youth symphony for years. She played soccer, ran cross-country, and was on the ski team. Because Corvallis is generally devoid of snow in the winter, she “roller skied.”

After graduating from Crescent Valley High School, she went to the University of Oregon, where she majored in Environmental Science. She describes that field as “a mile wide and an inch deep.” She tried “environmental research in a chemistry lab...not for me.” She tried social sciences and environmental history. As her interests narrowed, she finally began to settle on “science communication...how scientific information gets conveyed to the public.”

In 2012, Kelsey got an internship at Kings Canyon National Park working with rangers, giving talks, and leading hikes, all centering on “natural resource interpretation.”

“I loved wearing that flat hat,” she says, with feeling. “I loved pinning the Junior Ranger badges on the kids and swearing them in.”

“I loved being able to back-pack from my front door...paddle a canoe. I loved all of it.”

“It really formed me,” she says, smiling broadly.

The National Park Service gave her summer work as an “interpretive ranger,” not only at King’s Canyon, but also in Glacier National Park.

To “fill the off season” she worked at a YMCA camp on Orcas Island in the San Juans and for Nature-Bridge in Olympic National Park.

“But it got to the point where I craved stability,” she says. She moved home to her parents’ house in Corvallis for the winter. There, in 2015, she linked up with an old high school friend, Tyler Wilson. They started dating. Tyler wanted to become an elementary school teacher with a Master’s degree and began graduate school at OSU-Cascades in May 2017.

Kelsey began looking for a job in Bend. She applied for one... only one. She holds that job today.

She and Tyler share a home with another couple near Juniper Park.

It’s clear that the High Desert Museum feels like home to Kelsey. “I love the diversity of programs here,” she says, “and every season is different.”

Kelsey brings her nearly boundless energy to the job. She enjoys working with kids, “from two years old through high school.” She loves helping them “develop their interests,” she says. “This Museum is a great community resource,” Kelsey says with feeling.

When Kelsey is not at the Museum, she’s cross country skiing, biking, hiking, doing cyclocross.... Just last month she ran the “Wonderland Trail” on Mt. Rainier: 95 miles in three days.

Kelsey brings that kind of energy to work with her every day.

Photo by Dave Gilbert

High Desert Voices

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High Desert Museum Area Updates for Summer 2019

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor, and Dave Price, Admissions & VAC Secretary

By Hand Through Memory — The wardrobes of the three digging women mannequins are still being worked on. Things are going well in general.

The BHTM team is moving into a new storage area. The wheels on the BHTM artifact carts have been repaired and now work much better. The display cradleboard stand is heavy and hard to move. As a result, the team is discussing options for leaving the stand in place and only moving the cradleboard doll. The new metal guardrail around the tipi is a big improvement from the old rope barrier. The team is looking for new volunteers.

Collections — The team has been very busy. Their space has been crowded lately with the three digging women mannequins and the mounted fox. They had visitors during two vault tours that included tribal elders working on updating the BHTM gallery. The Archaeological Society of Central Oregon also visited recently. They were really interested in everything they saw. The one hour scheduled tour turned into a two hour visit that included information on cataloging, cleaning, etc.

Birds of Prey — The *Raptors of the Desert Sky* program is going well. The Birds of Prey area is well staffed and the raptor programs are more crowded than they have ever seen them. Aaron Rubin has been working with the birds on exhibit. The substrate in the burrowing owl exhibit space was changed from sand to gravel, which the birds prefer. Work on the mews continues. Jon Nelson has been posting updates on the eagle he is working with to release back into the wild. Two Pacific lampreys, from the tribes, are in the exhibit space near the otters. The sucker tank is now open again. There are Foskett dace fish and sucker fish, both native Central Oregon species, in the tanks.

The Birds of Prey team is looking for more volunteers. Eagle training is going well. The Museum has a new red-tailed hawk in its collection, recently released from rehabilitation.

Living History — Attendance has been good. They are still adjusting to the new presentation style in Spirit of the West. Interpretive talks are now limited to 20 minutes in length and are focused on one specific theme. Themes are usually announced at the beginning of the talk and include topics such as jobs, business, resources, and clothing. Visitors can be told the talks are “a thematically based tour through 100 years of exploration and settlement in the High Desert.” Volunteers working as Gallery Attendants may give longer, more in depth, talks.

The blacksmith shop at the *Miller Ranch* is almost ready to open to the public. When it is done, it will

demonstrate the activities of a traveling blacksmith. Jean Drzyzgula will be the blacksmith interpreter. The first demonstration is planned for October 5. *Father Christmas* will be back at the Museum on December 14.

Photography — There was a team meeting on August 6. Work for the team is going well.

Silver Sage Gift Store — Several items from the store were highlighted. It has been a busy place. VAC members sampled delicious huckleberry-flavored licorice whips available for purchase at the store. New hats and a hoodie are also being featured. A small moon ball toy is for sale as well. The store’s floor displays have been rearranged and look very nice. Items for sale at the store include a stuffed toy bat, a stuffed otter toy with candy, a bug model, a big candy bar, meditation stones, a packet of huckleberry gummy bears, and a heavy shirt with a Bend community logo on the front.

Admissions/Greeters — The Museum was packed with visitors every day. On July 5, the Museum had 1,200 visitors. The *Raptors of the Desert Sky* summer program sold out fast with most tickets gone by 10:15 am.

The five dog kennels available for temporary use in the Museum parking area were discussed. They are secured to trees and under the shade of a canopy. Visitors must come in to Admissions and fill out a form that includes their phone number. If they do not return the key for the kennel, they can be fined.

The sign for the High Desert Ranger Station was moved to a more visible location near the entrance. Attendance increased after relocating the sign.

Everyone was reminded that the Museum has a number of special admission programs. These include the *Blue Star Program*, which provides free admissions for active duty military families; *Museum & Me*, which provides free after-hour programs for special needs visitors; *Desert Explorers*, a free admission program sponsored by local libraries; and the *Discovery Pass*, an admission program for people with special needs. For guests who have a WIC, EBT, or SNAP card and photo ID, the *Museums for All* program charges guests a reduced admission rate of \$2.00 per person, offered for up to six individuals (up to two adults and four children). There are also two free days and two senior free days every year. Finally, it was reported that the admission desk sold over 11,000 tickets for the *Raptors of the Desert Sky* program this past summer. This raised over \$42,000 for the Museum.

Museum Area Updates—continued

Naturalists — The team needs to find backfill interpreters for some of the daily programs. *Nature Walk* interpreters were reminded to turn off the guide microphone when the walk is finished. The *Nature Plants Table* photograph panels will be rotated from spring/summer to fall/winter on September 23. Thad Grudzien will be unavailable for six weeks.

High Desert Voices Newsletter — The team had a meeting/get together on July 25. The team will take August and September off.

Desertarium — The team appreciates the new snake pegboard made by volunteer Burt Douglass. This pegboard works well because the snakes can't see the ground through it and tend to stay on it. A Desertarium volunteer has been working with the blue tongued skink doing target training and it's going well. They have a new ball python, donated by a

volunteer. This non-native snake may be used in the future for educational purposes. The rattlesnake baby is now one year old.

The staff is still training the bearded dragon. The Museum also has a new black widow spider. The team is also looking for volunteers to work as interpreters at the Desertarium biofact cart.

Gallery Attendants — There are a high number of attendants working with the otters. There will be a gallery guide team meeting on October 1 after the curator led tour of the *Fueling the Future* exhibit.

A special thank you to Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Campbell. We have all enjoyed working with you and wish you well in your future endeavors.

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor, and Dave Price, Admissions & VAC Secretary

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work this summer. **Patrick Johnson** and the rest of the Facilities crew were thanked for the great job getting carpet laid in SOW and in some of the office areas. The **video about the *Art of the West*** exhibit was done quite well. **Heather Duchow** was thanked for being the Chair of VAC for the past year. **Frank Graham** was recognized for stepping up and taking on the Vice Chair position for the VAC. **Noah Wahl**, in Facilities, was thanked for being quick to clean up a sticky spill in BHTM and his help was appreciated. **Gail Hodge** was thanked for her amazing work with Events. She is so organized and has everything all mapped out at events. She's "really good at her job." **Curt Belsaw**, in Facilities, is the longest tenured employee at the Museum. He is appreciated for getting to the Museum early in the morning during winter months to clear snow. He was also thanked for his quick work fixing the penny machine when it broke on the morning of Free Day. The **Silver Sage Gift Store** was commended for its new floor display arrangement. The **Facilities Team** was recognized for posting all the new locator and way-finding signs...they look nice! **Jean Noosinow** was recognized for being selected this year's *Volunteer of the Year*...well deserved recognition! **Steve Murray** was congratulated for being another volunteer award winner...well done Steve! Finally, the entire VAC thanked **Shannon Campbell** for her outstanding support of Museum volunteers. Everyone agreed Shannon will be missed! Kudos to all of you!



Tales of Hallow's Eve

October 26

6:00 – 8:00 pm

\$10.00, members \$8.00. Children 2 and under Free.

Prepayment required. [RSVP.](#)

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City, Oregon

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



"We're almost there," Pa said. He pointed towards a low sagebrush-covered hill. "It's just over that rise."

"How many times have you said that, Pa?" I said to myself. I shaded my eyes and looked at the dismal landscape. Dusty sagebrush and clumps of dry grass for as far as I could see.

The year is 1853 and my name is Lizzie. My family is heading west along the Oregon Trail. It's not a trail so I don't know why they call it that. Some people call it Emigrant Road, but I don't think that's right either. It's a rough meandering pathway to a new life, that's what it is. That's why so many of us are making this journey, no matter what the cost.

We have traveled nearly 1,600 miles so far. On a good day we make 20 miles, but on most days we travel 10-15. It's been five months since we left Missouri.

We came here because of the promise of free land. If Pa was a single man, he could claim 320 acres; since he's married, he and Ma can claim 640 acres. Was it worth it? I sure hope so. Based on what I've seen so far, I don't think this is "The Land of Milk and Honey" that everyone said it was.

Many of the nearly half a million emigrants that migrated to the Oregon Country in the years 1840-1870 could have written this account. Sensationalized accounts of the "Promised Land" caused the single largest voluntary migration in America. For many of the settlers, the Willamette Valley was the final destination.

In 1861, gold was discovered in the Blue Mountains and even more people moved to Oregon. Miners established mining camps in several locations in north-eastern Oregon. In 1894, gold was discovered on Flagstaff Hill and a mine was built there. By 1897, three quarters of Oregon's gold—worth millions in today's dollars—came from Baker County. One nugget weighed seven pounds!

The [National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center](#), located atop Flagstaff Hill east of Baker City, introduces visitors to this fascinating era in American history. Exhibits at the Interpretive Center focus on different aspects of the journey west.

Approximately 300 miles of the Oregon Trail still exist. Much of the 2,170 mile trail has disappeared because of erosion and development. At the Interpretive Center, you can hike or drive to areas where you can view actual remnants of the trail.



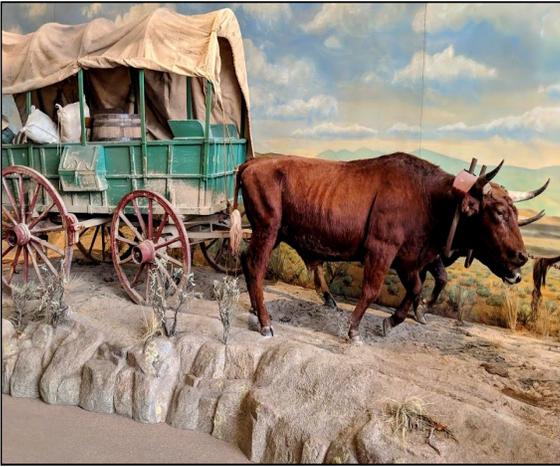
Covered wagons are a prominent part of the Interpretive Center, both inside and outside. Teams of oxen, mules, or horses pulled the wagons. Mule teams were the most expensive to buy. Though mules could be stubborn, they had remarkable endurance and surefootedness.

Every inch of space was used in the wagons. False floors and pockets sewn into the canvases held extra supplies in the interior. They strapped other supplies to the outside or carried them in saddle bags. However, many of the supplies were abandoned along the way because of excess weight. Many wagons went without brakes since this too would add weight. They slowed wagons going downhill with rough locks, wheel shoes, or a tree tied to the wheels.

Emigrants used the wagons for sick rooms, birthing rooms, and shelter from storms. Most did not travel inside the wagons on the trail. The rough roads led to a bone-wrenching ride, so the emigrants walked alongside their wagons. When the landscape allowed it, wagons traveled abreast to avoid each other's dust.

If several wagons were traveling together, they often formed a circle at the end of the day's travel. The area inside the wagon circle served as a corral for livestock. Exhausted travelers slept in tents and bedrolls.





The day started when the sun rose. After breakfast and gathering of the livestock, the caravan would travel for five to six hours. The travelers had limited food supplies so meals might include such delicacies as Velvet Tail Rattlesnake, Blue Beaver Tail Soup, and Cricket Mush. Sometimes the wagon trains camped at noontime resting spots, but most of the time they pressed onward for several more hours. Women and children collected firewood and men hunted for game along the way. As evening approached, they would encircle the wagons again. Evenings were a time for chores, such as repairing wagons and mending clothing, but also a time to tell stories, sing, and dance.

Quarrels along the trail were common due to events like wagons getting stuck in the mud or runaway livestock. They took thousands of livestock animals on the trail. The emigrants lost many because of predators, disease, and accidents.

Many emigrants died on this perilous journey. Some called the trail a “two thousand mile long graveyard.” One estimate suggests there were 10-15 graves per mile from Missouri to Oregon. Provisions gave out and hired hands abandoned their employers. The weak and the sick gave up hope. Cholera caused death within hours and it took the lives of many on the trail. Crossing rivers was one of the most dangerous parts of the journey.

Emigrants shared the Oregon Trail with trappers, traders, and native people. The Umatilla, Walla Walla, Cayuse, Nez Perce, and other tribes lived in the area near the Interpretive Center. As emigrants displaced local people, conflicts such as the Cayuse War of 1847, arose. The old ways of living off the land had passed. It forced Native Americans to deal with sweeping changes.



Both emigrants and natives learned to engage in the business of trading. Native people traded horses, local game, and salmon for cattle, beads, clothing, powder, and lead. Emigrants learned to differentiate the tribes by their clothing, hairstyles, beadwork, and basketry. Communication often consisted of hand signals and a few common words.

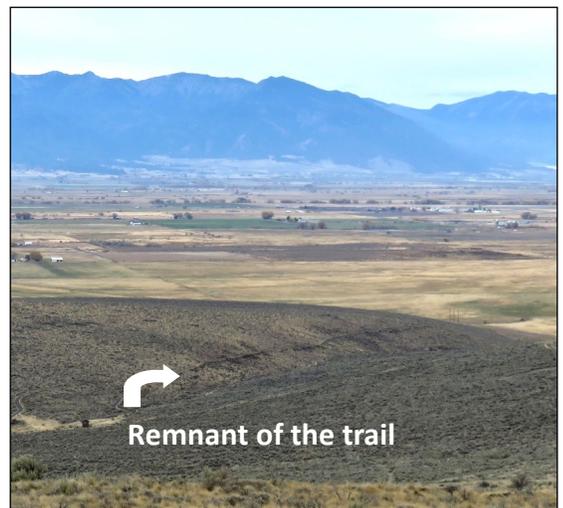
After decades of planning, the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center opened in 1992 to commemorate this period of history. The 23,000-square foot building sits atop Flagstaff Hill where visitors get a panoramic view of the surrounding territory. The Interpretive Center includes



exhibits, a theater, a café, and a gift store. There are living history interpretive talks, lectures, and special events throughout the year. Regular demonstrations include topics such as flint knapping, Dutch oven cooking, blacksmithing, and black powder firearms. For more information see this [brochure](#).

A network of trails leads you to living history encampments and to ruts left by wagons passing along the trail. You may catch glimpses of eagles flying overhead or pronghorn browsing in the sagebrush. In the spring and summer, wildflowers including lupine, Indian paintbrush, and buttercups splash the desert with color. Visitors can take part in regular guided nature hikes.

Flagstaff Hill marked where the Great American Desert ended on the journey west. For the emigrants that made it that far, the lush vegetation and abundant game at the base of the hill in Lone Pine Valley amazed them. This site symbolized all they had worked so hard for and many returned to the site years later. The Interpretive Center encapsulates the tragedy and joy associated with the Oregon Trail.



2019



2019

October	November—Save the Date!
5 Museum Event. <i>Harvest Festival.</i> 11:00 am—3:00 pm. Free with Museum admission.	1 Winter Hours Begin. 10:00 am—4:00 pm.
12 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am—2:00 pm.	9 Museum Event: <i>Mining Day.</i> 11:00 am—3:00 pm. Museum admission plus \$2 per “miner.”
12 Museum Event. <i>Museum and Me.</i> 5:00—8:00 pm. Free for individuals, friends, and family. RSVP.	9 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am—2:00 pm.
16 Museum Event. <i>Senior Day.</i> 9:00 am—5:00 pm. Free admission for visitors 65 and older.	10 Exhibit Closing: <i>Moon Country: Oregon and the Space Race.</i>
19 Exhibit Opening: <i>Witness to Wartime: The Painted Diary of Takuichi Fujii.</i>	12 Museum Event: <i>Oregon Humanities Project: It’s a Free Country: Exploring the Limitations and Responsibilities of Freedom.</i> 6:00—7:00 pm. All are welcome. A \$5 donation is encouraged. RSVP.
26 Museum Event. <i>Tales of Hallow’s Eve.</i> 6:00—8:00 pm. \$10, Members receive a 20% discount. Museum café will be open for food and drinks. RSVP. Prepayment required.	20 Museum Event: <i>Common Ground: Renewable Energy Solutions.</i> 6:00—7:30 pm. \$6, Members receive a 20% discount. RSVP.
	23 Exhibit Opening: <i>Nature’s Resilience.</i>
	28 Museum Closed. Happy Thanksgiving!
	29-30 Silver Sage Trading Holiday Sale. 10:00 am—4:00 pm.

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp

or call 541-382-4754. or pre-register:
www.highdesertmuseum.org/program