

HIGH DESERT VOICES

April 2017

News and Information published by and for Volunteers

HDM: After Hours

By Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer



Nearly 60 people came out to “celebrate the tail end of winter” at the *HDM: After Hours* event on March 10. Lovely spring-like weather on that Friday seemed to confirm that winter in the high desert would finally come to an end. Some people who had signed up for the event in advance were probably kept away by the sunshine and relative warmth, but several impromptu visitors made up the difference.

Volunteer Tom Lyon greeted everyone at admissions with a smile. The inviting sounds of jazz duo Stone & Plankey drew guests in. Vocalist Clairon Stone and guitarist Jason Plankey put their spin on classics like “Crazy” and “Summertime.”

Visitors found their way to the bar in front of the Silver Sage Museum Store windows, at the far end of the Collins Gallery, where Tyson Baird, the events manager, poured local libations. A nice selection of Oregon beer and wine was offered. Guests nibbled on snacks selected from an assortment of fruit, cheese, and crackers. Folks seemed to enjoy the setting in the Collins Gallery, surrounded by the photographs of the newly opened *Legendary Landscapes* exhibit.



In addition to enjoying the *Legendary Landscapes* exhibit, most guests explored *WWII: High Desert Home Front* and *The Buzzsaw Sharks of Long Ago*. This event was a great opportunity to really savor these exhibits without a crowd.



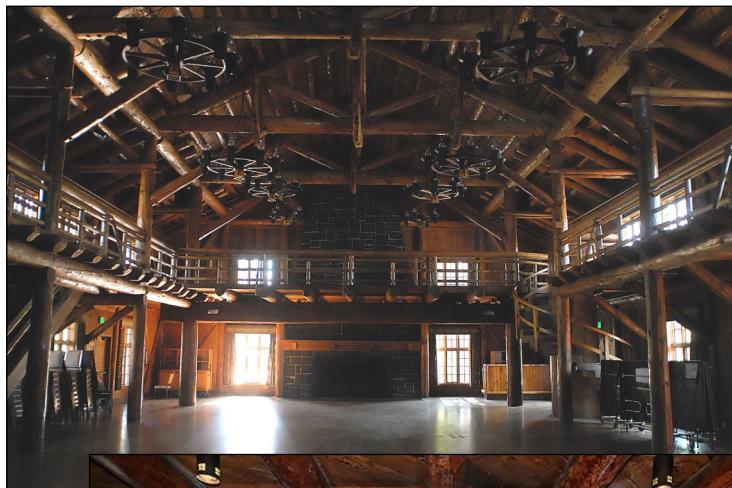
When not viewing exhibits, guests gathered in small groups around cocktail tables to chat or listen to music. Several guests shopped in the Museum store.

As the evening started to wind down, I overheard one mom ask two little girls what one thing they wanted to visit again before they left. The two conferred briefly, then turned back to the mom. “Victory garden!” they agreed. Off they went to the *High Desert Home Front* exhibit to wrap up their visit to the *HDM: After Hours* event.



Camp Abbot - Then and Now: Part 2

by Lynne Schaefer, Newsletter Writer



Camp Abbot's Officers' Club, now known as Sunriver's Great Hall, was a major training exercise and accomplishment that remains a distinguished landmark after more than 70 years.

Work began October 1, 1943, and took six months to complete. Designed in the style of a mountain lodge, a total of 63,000 manual hours went into the 511 log construction. The 40-foot hewed beams, as well as the logs and slabs, were all located on site.

The Deschutes and Willamette National Forests supplied additional material including the tree for the circular staircase. A total 150,000 board feet of lumber were put into the building.

Stone masons shaped ten tons of volcanic rock into the two massive fireplaces, one on the lower level, the other directly above on the mezzanine. Less than three months later, a "bush raising" ceremony was held at the Christmas Eve dance to celebrate completion of the roof. When Camp Abbot was abandoned in June 1944 after the invasion of Europe, the Officers' Club was the only significant building left untouched.

The 5,500 acre property went up for sale in 1945. By 1950, it was used for a livestock operation, and, at one time, the Officers' Club housed cattle.

Camp Abbot memorabilia, once displayed at the Sunriver Nature Center, is now at the Deschutes Historical Museum in Bend.

According to the Sunriver Nature Center Publication *Camp Abbot*, the main entrance was on "F" Street (now Center Drive), along with the café, recreation buildings, and "F" Street barracks.

The post chapel was located on what is now a Sunriver Lodge parking lot.

Besson Commons sits between the Lodge and the Great Hall. On the walls inside the main doors of the former Officers' Club are a plaque, pictures and descriptions to commemorate the 50th Anniversary (September 10, 1993) and remember the 90,000 soldiers who trained at the U.S. Army 3rd Engineer Replacement Training Center.

The Great Hall is now used for conventions, banquets, receptions, formal dances and music recitals. It has been used by movie and television companies on location. One script of Richard Boone's "Have Gun, Will Travel" television series was adapted to focus on the unusual circular staircase built around the huge pine tree.

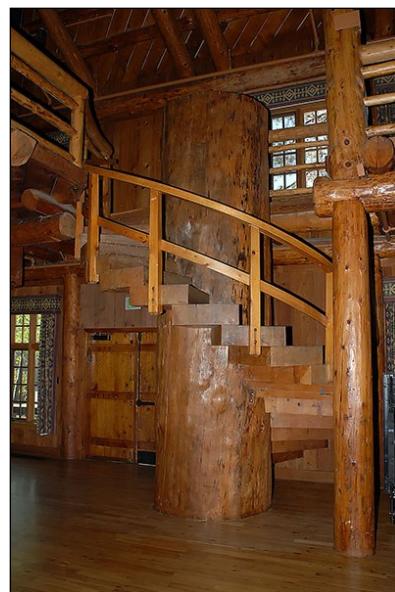
Camp Abbot's review field was on part of the Great Meadow.

Soldiers dodged bullets on the obstacle course, now the 10th tee on the Meadows Golf Course.

The waterway behind the Lodge and River Lodges, now called Sun River, is all that remains of the canals developed by the corpsmen.

The Civilian Conservation Corps camp site was in the area now called Vista Lane.

Soldiers practiced on bayonet courts and rifle and grenade ranges on the lower meadow between what is now Vista Lane and the Sunriver Airport.



Camp Abbot - continued



Additional anti-tank range, mortar and firing ranges, and demolition areas spread north and west across the Deschutes into what is now the Deschutes National Forest.

The chemical training area took place east between what is now the railroad track and Hwy. 97.

Remnants of bridge abutment foundations built by the corpsmen between what are now the Sunriver Stables and Mary McCallum Park are better seen by floaters on the Deschutes.

Major General Alexander M. Patch used Camp Abbot as his base in 1943 to lead the Oregon Maneuver. One hundred thousand soldiers participated in large scale war games on 10,000 square miles in three central Oregon counties before their deployment overseas. In 1943, the U.S. Forest Service and the combat engineers training at Camp Abbot built the General Patch Bridge about seven miles south from Sunriver at what is now the Big River Campground. Declared unsafe, it no longer remains. It was visible from the Robert D. Maxwell Veterans Memorial Bridge built in 1984 on South Century Drive. General Patch recommended Technician Fifth Grade Robert D. Maxwell of Bend to receive the Medal of Honor for heroism in France in 1944. According to a plaque at the campground near the site of the former smaller bridge, the two men never met each other.

Photos by Lee Schaefer

The "L" Street barracks spread between what are now the 12th and 14th holes of the Meadows Golf Course between Circles 2 and 3 near the Wildflower condos.

With the addition of a roof and door to Camp Abbot's sedimentation tank, the building is now used by Sunriver's Public Works Department between the Sunriver Police station and the community recycle center.

The Army's munitions dump proved too costly for the Sunriver Homeowners Association to dig up and remove all toxic asbestos and contaminated soil so in 2012 they built the concrete Sunriver Homeowners Aquatic and Recreation Center (SHARC) on Overlook Road to bury what remained.



Photos by John Williams

Introducing Heather Duchow, Photography, Newsletter, & Nature Team Volunteer

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



Submitted photo

One volunteer at the High Desert Museum is living a dream that was sparked in childhood and continued in college. The childhood dream was to be a naturalist; in college she thought it would be “really cool to be involved with a science Museum.”

The dreamer is Heather Duchow, a camera-carrying volunteer naturalist. She pronounces her last name “Doo-ko.”

Though Heather has been at the Museum only since August 2015, she was named Rookie of the Year in 2016. She is the VAC liaison for the photography team, contributes to the newsletter, helps with field trips and day camps for kids...all of which she sums up as “fun.”

Heather spent her early life in Danville, a county seat in east-central Illinois. She lived there through the fifth grade, when her family moved about 30 miles farther west to St. Joseph. For the first two years of college she went to the University of Illinois in nearby Champaign-Urbana, then finished her degree at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Her major was Biology and Chemistry.

Heather went on to Princeton, where she completed a Ph.D. in molecular biology. She also met and married John Schmitt, who was earning his doctorate in mechanical engineering. “But he’s really an applied mathematician,” she says.

Heather and John moved to Corvallis in 2003. She began postdoctoral research at Oregon State, and John joined the faculty.

However, some health issues and a growing frustration with lab work and experiments, caused her to leave academe. “I realized a research or academic career wasn’t a good fit for me,” she says.

Heather spent some time working around the house. Her facial expressions change rapidly, dramatically punctuating her words as she speaks. “Typical gender stuff is not for us,” she says, laughing. “He is a way better cook than I am, and I am handier with tools.”

“I loved Corvallis,” she says. “I felt a part of that community.” She was active in the Master Gardener program there and loved the proximity to the Oregon Coast.

In 2011, John accepted a job with Bend Research and they moved to Bend. The couple lives in southwest Bend. They enjoy cross-country skiing and lake kayaking. They have no pets, although she says with a laugh that they did have some little frogs in a water feature in Corvallis. The closest children in their lives are two nephews and three nieces.

After leaving Corvallis, “I was unsettled,” Heather says. “I began to think about getting back into the workforce.” However, she felt her resume lacked recent experience.

Perhaps it was that feeling or something from her youthful dreaming that brought her through the doors of the High Desert Museum. “It was an OMG moment,” she says. She asked about helping out and took home the volunteer coordinator’s business card. She signed up.

“I thought I would find smart people at the Museum, and that has been very true,” Heather says. “There a lot of extraordinary people here—both staff and volunteers.” Her blondish-auburn hair sways slightly, revealing tiny gold beads in her earlobes.

Heather is unintimidated by silence and her eyes search the ceiling to find the words she wants. “I feel a little guilty being able to do this volunteer work,” she says. “For many people, volunteering at the Museum is a retirement activity. It’s something they do after they’ve already had a full career. That’s not exactly the case for me. I’m still trying to figure out what I want to do when I grow up, and volunteering at the Museum is part of that process.”

Heather says she’s happy to be contributing to something she values. “I believe that science literacy is extremely important,” she says, “and I’m glad that is an area the Museum addresses.”

Mostly people see Heather when she is wearing the khaki vest of a volunteer photographer. The vest makes her “feel more official and confident” when she approaches Museum guests and asked to photograph them for the Museum.

Heather Duchow - continued

Her interest in photography began with botanical subjects and progressed to landscapes, then people. It's an interest she shares with John.

"It was sort of a collaborative process for a while, with the two of us sharing one camera," she says. "He bought me my own camera a few years ago, and we've been lugging dueling cameras with us ever since."

At the High Desert Museum, other photographers "all more experienced than me," she says, "have been really helpful and encouraging."

Much of her photographic work deals with events however, she noted, "I've been working on photos of plants for a new native-plant information board for the Nature Table."

"My real love now is helping people find answers to their question," she says. "That is something I really liked about being a Master Gardener in Corvallis, and it's something I like about filling in for nature walks."

She also values her VAC experience. "I like knowing what else is going on at the Museum, and it's good to know volunteers on other teams."

High Desert Museum Area Updates from April 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Photography - Team members have been busy photographing artifacts for the Collections team database.

By Hand Through Memory – They recently had a former volunteer express interest in volunteering with the team again. Since some of the volunteers started wearing a tag on their nametag that says they are fluent in a specific foreign language, they have been approached much more frequently by visitors.

Silver Sage Trading Center – A large iron triangular dinner bell with a steer's head on one end has been popular with shoppers. The same ironsmith also has created BBQ utensils decorated with a pig's head. There has been a lot of interest in a *Cook It in Cast Iron* cookbook. Packets of Oregon wildflower seeds are available just in time for spring. There is a small plush owl purse and a kid's glow-in-the-dark t-shirt for sale. A deck of cards with information about the night sky will help those trying to identify what they see. Astronaut ice cream and Goody's dark and light chocolate bars are also for sale.

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in March. **Burt Douglass** worked diligently on making a stand for the cradleboard in the By Hand Through Memory area. He put a lot of thought into making sure that it was a strong and supportive structure. Native Americans in this part of the country attached the cradleboards to their saddles or propped them up against a shrub, tree, or rock. **Jessica Stewart** was thanked for her work recruiting and training volunteers to work in the Desertarium. She has significantly increased the number of volunteers working in that area. Kudos to all of you!

Birds of Prey - Volunteers will no longer be involved in holding the birds during public programs. The team is hoping to eventually have Gallery Attendants work in their area. Eighteen Warner sucker fish were recently added to the Museum's collection. The lampreys are off exhibit temporarily. There was a reminder about two upcoming photo workshops hosted by the Museum on May 6 and May 20.

Collections – They are busy inventorying all of the Museum's paintings. They are continuing their work on documenting all feathers in the Museum's collection. Clothing artifacts are being repackaged with fresh tissue paper.

Naturalists – The big display board used in their talks will be reconfigured with the help of staff. It will be a semi-permanent display that will be on wheels. It will have two-sided panels and that will be useful in setting up displays for each season. A display about butterflies of the Southwest was recently installed.

Don't forget to attend the

Volunteer Appreciation Happy Hour

Appetizers & 2 free drinks provided

April 12 from 4:30—6:30 pm

RSVP in Volgistics or sign up in the Lunchroom

High Desert Voices

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2017



2017

Kitchen Patrol: Clean up after yourself

April	May - Save the Date!
1 Raptor Demonstration: <i>Sky Hunters.</i> 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$5, plus admission. Registration and pre-payment required.	1 Summer hours begin: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
2 Exhibit Closing: <i>From the Vault: Pat Courtney Gold Baskets.</i>	5 Exhibit Opening: <i>Kids Curate.</i>
6 Lecture: <i>A Pollinator's Plight.</i> 6:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	5-6 Weekend Workshop: <i>Native Wildlife: Photography & Conservation.</i> May 5, optional class session: 5:00 - 6:00 pm; May 6, Photography shoot: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Members \$150, Non-members \$200. Registration and pre-payment required.
8 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	6 Weekend Workshop: <i>Dutch Oven Dining: Breakfast.</i> 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. RSVP.
11 Off-site Natural History Pub: <i>Water Resources and Community Collaboration.</i> 7:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMenamins. Free. RSVP.	6 Exhibit Opening: <i>Scats & Tracks.</i>
12 Volunteer Appreciation Happy Hour. 4:30—6:30 pm. RSVP via Volgistics or sign up in the lunchroom. Appetizers & 2 free drinks provided.	9 Off-site Natural History Pub: <i>Satellites & Saddles, Lasers & Grazers: Monitoring Grassland Vegetation with Remote Sensing Technologies.</i> 7:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMenamins. Free. RSVP.
13 Lecture & Book Signing: <i>Resurrecting the Shark.</i> 6:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	10 Workshop: <i>Birding for Breakfast.</i> 7:00 - 9:00 am. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. RSVP. Coffee, tea, & pastries provided.
14 Weekend Workshop: <i>WWII Aircraft Field Trip.</i> 9:00 am - 1:30 pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$25. Registration and pre-payment required. SORRY, FULL.	10 Lunch & Lecture: <i>Training for WWII on the High Desert.</i> 12:00 pm. Bring a lunch. Free with Museum admission. RSVP.
21 Museum Event: <i>HDM: After Hours.</i> 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	11 Museum Event: <i>HDM: After Hours.</i> 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
22 Off-site Event: <i>Field Trip: Swainson's and Squirrels.</i> 7:00 am - 2:00 pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$25. Registration and pre-payment required.	12 Museum Event: <i>Diversity in the Desert: A Community Celebration.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Members free, guests \$7. RSVP.
23 Exhibit Closing: <i>The Buzzsaw Sharks of Long Ago.</i>	13 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
24 Lecture: <i>A Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program in the Pacific Northwest.</i> 6:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7, Students with ID free. RSVP.	17 Senior Day. Free admission for those aged 65 and older.
27 Lecture: <i>Our Public Land Heritage: BLM History.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	19 Weekend Workshop: <i>Native Wildlife: Photography & Conservation.</i> May 19, optional class session 5:00 - 6:00 pm; May 20, Photography shoot 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Members \$150, Non-members \$200. Registration and pre-payment required.
29 Weekend Workshop: <i>WWII Aircraft Field Trip.</i> 9:00 am - 1:30 pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$25. Registration and pre-payment required. SORRY, FULL.	20 Weekend Workshop: <i>Dutch Oven Dining: Dinner & Dessert.</i> 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. RSVP.
29 Museum and Me. 4:00 - 7:00 pm. RSVP. To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or 541-382-4754 To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program	22 Lecture: <i>A Complicated Legacy: The History of the Hanford Site.</i> 6:00 pm, doors open at 5:30 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
	27 Summer Programming Begins.