



e-MIDDEN

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Central Oregon

Volume 26, No. 4

September-October 2019

September General Meeting **& Book Sale**

Thursday Sept 19th, 2019

Guest Speaker: Kelsey Doncaster

**Topic: *“Sagebrush to Clover: History of the
North Unit Irrigation District in Jefferson County”***

Doors open @ 6:30pm; Meeting @ 7pm with the Speaker to follow

**Location: OSU – Cascades Tykeson Hall (TYKH 111)
1500 SW Chandler Ave, Bend, OR 97702**

September Guest Speaker

Mr. Kelsey Doncaster is a fifth generation Washingtonian whose family's history has been intertwined with Washington State's from territory era to present day. Kelsey holds a Master of Science in Resource Management from Central Washington University, a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Washington. His current position as a Historian for the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) since 2008 involves the evaluation, documentation, oral history, measured drawings, photography, management and National Register of Historic Places listing of historic resources of the agency per the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 in Washington,



Oregon, Idaho and western Montana. He discovered, and is working to preserve, the last United States Reclamation Service barn in the Nation that was built in 1912. He also has written Historic American Engineering Records of Reclamation's irrigation works that are on file at the Library of Congress from Arrowrock Dam to the East Division of the Umatilla Project, Oregon.

In 2015 Mr. Doncaster lectured numerous times on the construction of Arrowrock Dam in Idaho, which was the tallest concrete arch dam in the world when built and celebrated its 100th year anniversary. Mr. Doncaster co-presented on Ditchrider Architecture: Housing the Human Element of Federal Irrigation Systems at the 2016 Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference in Durham, North Carolina. In 2017, Mr. Doncaster lectured about the Dynamite, Draglines and the Unexplained Cracking of a Pressure Tunnel: Building the Kittitas Division of the Yakima Project and it was followed in 2018 with the Lost Photographs of the Kittitas Division of the Yakima Project.

Outside of Reclamation Mr. Doncaster's historic preservation work includes a variety of experiences. He participated in restoration/preservation with the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School in 2006 at North Cascades National Park, Washington; and in 2007, at Heyburn State Park, Idaho. He has listed two unique barns on Washington Barn Heritage register that are examples of Yakima Valley's abundant agriculture: a circa 1918 hop kiln, and a circa 1916 apple ranch packing house. He composed a primer of architecture for the City of Yakima, Washington Historic Preservation Commission and has lectured, written articles, and consulted on the Pacific Northwest fruit industry, architecture, and local history.

His written work varies from articles for the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation to The Ultimate Fruit Label Book to multi-media Revisiting Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State. He has been a committee member for Washington State's Main Street Program and the Certified Local Governments to award historic preservation grants. From 2011-2017 Mr. Doncaster was a member of the Board of Directors for the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. He has been an avid collector, lecturer and historian of Pacific Northwest fruit box labels for over 28 years. He lives in Yakima, Washington with his wife and three daughters.



We would like to give a special thanks to our Guest Speaker from May of this year, Mr. Jack Nisbet, who spoke on "*Much More than a Desert: John Leiberg in Eastern Oregon*":

John B. Leiberg and his physician wife, Carrie, cut a wide swath through the Pacific Northwest at the end of the nineteenth century, engaging in activities that ranged from timber assessments and fire ecology to public heather and suffrage politics. The slide presentation focused on two landmark plant surveys that John made through Eastern Oregon in 1894 and 1896. Leiberg explored habitats from the Blue Mountains to Bend and from the Malheur River to Crater Lake.

From our Librarian:

Due to several years struggle with accommodation and low utilization rates, the ASCO Board has decided to significantly reduce the ASCO Library inventory. Books of all sorts, pertaining to Anthropology and Archaeology, will be available at the September General Meeting for donation of any amount.

All proceeds will go to Archaeologist Patrick O'Grady, with the University of Oregon, in support of his ongoing research at the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter Site in Southeastern Oregon. Please come lend your support for this excellent project and, as a bonus, help us clear out some space!

Thank you,
Stephanie Marks

2019 Summer Field Trip Showcase

Horsethief Lake - "She Who Watches" and "Temani Pesh-Wah" Trip:

May 18th turned out to be a beautiful day at Washington's Columbia Hills State Park. The day before and the day after were rainy, windy, and raw. Our ASCO field trip of 20 souls lucked out with perfect weather and enjoyed a fascinating 3 hours with the esteemed archaeologist, Jim Keyser. With a stream of fact and theory, Jim expertly guided and talked us through a walk along the "She Who Watches" and "Temani Pesh-Wah" Trails.



This famous trail is an unforgettable introduction to the pictographs and petroglyphs of the Columbian Plateau. Fanciful human and animal figures and geometric images abound in the rocks along the half mile trek - all within a few hundred yards of the Columbia River. Most of the art dates from 1700 to 1840 and portrays mystical and religious motifs. There's a mixture of mortuary art, Shamanism, vision quest, and hunting images. Jim strongly believes the white man's introduction of small pox and the tragic havoc it unleashed on the tribes plays heavily into the dark spiritual themes of the rock imagery.





Our ASCO crew had a great time. Peppered with many thoughtful questions along the way, Jim remarked a few times how much fun he was having in taking our members on one of his tours. He seemed to be as excited by the experience as we were.



Submitted by: Phil Ruder
Photos by Scott Mckenzie

High Desert Museum Vault Visit on July 16th:

Those fortunate enough to sign up for this field trip had a truly unique experience. The 'vault' is where the museum stores all the items which are not on display. At any one time, only about 10% of the museum's collection is on display. The 'vault' is where the other 90% is stored, catalogued, and protected. To that end, the vault area is secured through a double locked entry, fire protection, alarms, and environmental controls.



The outer most zone of the vault is a workspace with offices, a photo set for documenting items, and even a space for making custom boxes to store items in. This is where our visit started. We were greeted by volunteers and the museum collection curator. They had a table set up to show us the steps required to document items and store them in a manner to protect them for future generations.

We then broke into two groups of six. Each group was given a tour of the two separate vaults. The larger vault is more for artifacts and has environmental

controls tuned for those items. In response to a request, the museum volunteers had setup a table with some amazing basket samples and our group was free to ask questions. Next we were allowed to go into sliding aisles of artifacts to view many amazing items, with supervision of course!

While one group toured the larger vault, the other group did a tour of the smaller vault. The smaller vault is primarily for works of art and rare books. Its environmental controls are tuned to those items. My personal favorite moment during this part of the tour was when our guide showed us some plates from the Edward Curtis book collection.

I think a few quotes from some of the ASCO participant's say it all:

“The tour opened my eyes to the hard work that goes into preserving our heritage. I learned about Hopper Basin basketry, which will enhance my understanding of the site I steward. Thank you, HDM! You are truly a treasure.”

- Val Anderson

“Our vault tours today at High Desert Museum were more than I could have imagined. I came away with a new appreciation for the measures taken and details it requires to preserve History. The Vault Guides, Presenter, and Volunteers impressed me with their excitement, care, and concern for these items and educating those of us who were fortune to have had such an experience. Thank you!” - Michaele G.

All in all, I think this was a fun and educational experience for both ASCO participants and the museum volunteers. The museum has never allowed a vault tour like this before and I am hopeful they will do it again for our organization.

Submitted by John Williams
Photo by Scott Mckenzie

Rimrock Draw Rockshelter:

On July 10th, ASCO conducted a trip for nineteen members to the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter on the High Desert, two hours east of Bend. We met Scott Thomas, BLM Archeologist – Burns (retired), at the turnoff for Camp Gap Ranch, a CCC camp that operated from 1934 to 1942. We then drove to the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter site where Scott talked about how, in 2009, he found the rock outcropping, drawn to it by its promising location along an ancient stream



bed, its tall sagebrush, and its natural, north-facing protection from the prevailing southwesterly winds. Soon thereafter, he spotted projectile points and other



artifacts. We then met Pat O'Grady (blue shirt in photos), who with his field students from the University of Oregon, have been working at the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter every summer since 2011. This year, Pat had six students spending their 6-week-long field class at Rimrock. In addition, seven

volunteers from the Oregon Archeological Society were helping excavate the upper levels of the site.

Pat explained how the first excavations in 2011-12 extended to a depth of 12 feet, below a layer of large boulders and a lens of volcanic ash, and yielded animal tooth fragments and a beautiful piece of orange agate that had been flaked along the edges to make it into a multi-tool with different surfaces for different functions. The ash turned out to have been from Mt. Saint Helens and was dated at 15,000 to 16,000 years.



Work in subsequent years has been to extend the excavation along and perpendicular to the outcropping. Preliminary dates from camel teeth fragments found under the St Helens ash and bison tooth fragments from a second pit, but at the same depths, are in the range of 16-17,000 years. In both instances there are ancient mammal remains and human made artifacts in very close association.

With such an old date, the site is one of the oldest in North America. Pat is pleased that the students can work at a site with such significance. ASCO then treated the UofO students and OAS volunteers to lunch and popsicles. After lunch, ASCO members helped Scott survey the area north of the site for artifacts. We look forward to updates from Pat and Scott at future ASCO meetings!



Submitted by Bob Timmer
Photos by Scott Mckenzie & Al Matson

Food Roots Trip with Scott Thomas on May 25th:



Photos by Scott Mckenzie

Steelhead Falls Trip with Paul Claeysens & Stu Garrett on May 11th:



Photos by Scott Mckenzie

One Field Trip still remains for this year:

On October 5th, John Zancanella, John Williams, and coordinator Val Anderson will take a group to view the Dry River Pictographs of the Bombing Range and Whitaker Holes Sites. For more information and/or signups, please see Val Anderson at the September General Meeting.

From the Archaeology Roadshow 2019:

On Saturday, June 8th Portland State University, the Deschutes Historical Society, and ASCO sponsored the 2019 Central Oregon Archaeology Roadshow. This event had previously been held in Portland and Harney County, but this year it was held in our own backyard at Bend's Downtown Historical Society Museum for the first time.

The theme this year was "The Archaeology of Daily Life." ASCO, community members, and local organizations with archaeological affiliation hosted booths welcoming the general public in attendance to participate, especially kids! Tool-making, plant usage, historical collections, and artifact identification were just a few of the examples of featured displays.



For your viewing pleasure and for you to share far and wide, here is a link to the video compilation of this year's Roadshow:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNdRs_WaQfM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0hPtQnnp6k-k-wcA0X_5cpmLnMpmthZlpsmTGGcb83VrA56AxzRT3tZhk

From our President:

This year we've had some great speakers and exciting Field Trips. We've also expanded our public outreach and education efforts through our first Central Oregon Archaeology Roadshow, which was held in June.

We're continuing to look for new ways to support our mission and help the public understand more about our rich cultural heritage here in Central Oregon.

If you have an interest or ideas on how to pursue some new ways of engaging with our community, let's talk. Feel free to contact me, or anyone on the Board, to share your thoughts or interest.

Steve

Please remember to visit us online at the ASCO website for changes in our Calendar, as well as background information about the ASCO Stewardship Program, Field Trips, and past copies of the eMidden.

www.ascoinfo.net

2019 MEMBERSHIP

ASCO membership is for the calendar year, January through December. Benefits include many excellent Speakers, Workshops and Field Trips, and Stewardship Opportunities. All of these activities are available to members for the \$20 membership fee. New members are always welcome. For a new membership, or to renew for 2020, please use the application form posted online or pick one up at the next General Meeting. Only ASCO members in good standing are eligible to participate in Workshops, Field Trips, and the Stewardship Program. Please remember that neither guests nor persons under 18 may attend ASCO functions.

OFFICERS

President: Steve Hussey

Vice President: Vacant

Recording Secretary: John Zancanella

Communications Secretary:

Mary Webster

Treasurer: Nancy Green

Professional Advisor:

Chris Horting-Jones

Members At Large:

Darla Rozelle

Paul Claeysens

Stephanie Marks

COMMITTEES

Archives: Susan Gray

Bylaws: Susan Gray &

Chris Horting-Jones

Field Trips: Bob Timmer &

Val Anderson

Librarian, Webmaster, and Publications:

Stephanie Marks

Membership: Ann Evensen

Programs: Leslie Olson &

Chris Horting-Jones

Tag Board: Diane Kirpach

Volunteers/Stewardship:

Emily Pritchard