

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

Nov/Dec 2017

Our Mission Statement

The Oregon Paleo Lands Institute works with the Gateway Communities of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument to build social and economic vitality through efforts:

To conserve and promote the region's ancient and living landscapes, including the Earth's most complete record of the Age of Mammals (past 65 million years).

To develop and connect, with partners, the region's visitor services, recreational services, and natural history education, that support Eastern Oregon's top destination.

To welcome visitors and area residents at the Oregon Paleo Lands Center.

**Contact OPLI at:
Post Office Box 104
333 Fourth Street
Fossil, Oregon 97830**

**(541) 763-4480
paleolands@gmail.com
www.paleolands.org**

Presidents Message:

Presidents Message Nov 17 2017: New Partners, Bridging the Gap

Greetings OPLI supporters. Your organization continues to uncover and develop opportunities to expand utilization of the Paleo Lands Visitor/ Education Center in Fossil. We are pleased to include the updated 2017 Find Time guide with this year-end appeal.

Since 2016 developing new partnerships and securing new volunteers and Board members has impacted our operating resources. The Center still requires 2-3 thousand dollars a month for base operations: Utilities, insurance, printing, supplies, postage, .30 staff support. We hope you can help the Center end 2017 with a stronger operating reserve. Please consider sending a tax-deductible donation to help bridge the gap, as we continue to work with regional partners to share operation of the Center. The Center also needs more volunteers and Board members to join us in our mission to share the wonders of the John Day River Basin. Please contact me if you think now is your time. The Center's new photovoltaic electrical system has been installed and we are working with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to develop an accompanying educational program. This work will provide curriculum for educators and materials for the public within the John Day Basin.

The Board is excited to be signing a formal partnership with Oregon State Parks (OSP) that could include securing shared resources, volunteers and a Park Host to greet visitors and share regional information at the Center. Working with OSP, we will continue to refine the Joint Interpretive Strategy for the John Day Basin.

We are also pleased to welcome a new Board member to help our small dedicated group. Our newest member is Yann Gavillot who is part of the Research Faculty with Oregon State University. Yann is interested in helping our Board to enhance regional partnerships that recognize the unique values of the area. He is also a compelling advocate for the Geopark concept that could be applied to the John Day Basin.

Thanks again for your ongoing support.

CONTACT: jkee@hevanet.com

Your President,

Jeffrey Kee

Oregon State Parks and Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Team Up



OPLI is thrilled to announce a new agreement with Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept. (OPRD) to support the draft 2016 John Day Basin Joint Interpretive Strategy (See www.paleolands.org to review the Strategy). Through this agreement OPLI will work with OPRD to connect the Paleo Lands Center and its programs into a larger network of nearby visitor attractions and interpretive sites. The Strategy promises a more active future for the underused Center, as a shared year-round regional visitor and education hub.

OPRD and OPLI worked closely with Wheeler County in the 2016 designation of the 161-mile Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway, which has become an instant success. OPRD dramatically expanded services in the John Day Basin in 2013 by opening its largest park (8000 acres) at rugged Cottonwood Canyon near Condon. Cottonwood now hosts a summer field program for local high schoolers. OPRD's nearby parks at Deschutes River, Smith Rock, Clyde Holliday, Kam Wah Chung, Ukiah-Dale, and Bates, also offer camping and natural and cultural history

(...continued from page 1)

The Strategy began with six initial participants, whose programs feature the John Day Basin's natural and cultural heritage: OPLI, OPRD, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, University of Oregon Museum, High Desert Museum, and the National Park Service. Coordinated efforts under the Strategy will offer visitors and students a more complete, compelling story of the Basin's unique paleontological, natural and cultural history, and link it to modern concerns.

Photo: Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway (Russ Roca, Travel Oregon)

<https://traveloregon.com/things-to-do/outdoor-recreation/bicycling/road-biking/painted-hills-scenic-bikeway/>

OPLI's Newest Board Member

OPLI recently welcomed Dr. Yann Gavillot as the newest Board Member. Yann Gavillot is a geologist and on the research faculty at Oregon State University, specializing in earthquakes and tectonic processes of mountain belts. Yann also brings his expertise in science policy and geoheritage from his past work with Geoparks. Yann is currently affiliated with the IUCN Geoheritage Specialists Group, USGS Council of Geoparks, and with a broad Earth sciences community.



He has worked in Oregon, California, Arizona, and overseas (France, India, Middle East, and Southeast Asia). Yann and his family live in Corvallis, OR, which has been their home for nearly 10 years. Eastern Oregon has become one of their favorite places to escape the valley and enjoy the outdoors with amazing geology, unique landscapes, and rich history. Yann has a strong interest in working with a community that could improve its regional economic development with new ideas, projects and/or initiatives inspired by a "Geopark" concept applied to OPLI and the John Day River Basin area. It is for that reason Yann reached out to OPLI and believes the area has a great potential to become a regional success story incorporating the Geopark concept.

The John Day River Territory Kiosk Project

Imagine that people are flocking to visit all kinds of places or sights throughout the John Day River Territory. A way to help promote these kinds of activities and draw more people to the area is with strategically placed information kiosks. The four counties representing the John Day River Territory (JDRT) group (Gilliam, Wheeler, Sherman, and Grant) applied for and received a \$5000 Oregon Travel Commission grant matched with \$5000 in-kind contributions approved to place several kiosks to highlight the regions attractions for travelers to the John Day River Territory service area. The grant was approved in spring 2016. The plan is to build, establish kiosks at as many locations as the financial resources will allow throughout the four county area.

As an update on the JDRT tourist information kiosks, the kiosk committee (which has representatives from each of the four counties including Mark Amara, OPLI Board member) approved panel content in May 2017. As of mid September, the panels were printed by Rage Graphics in The Dalles. From there they were transported to Condon where the designated contractor is building them into their respective support structures. The contractor is also going to do the installation at each of the four sites (Arlington, Prairie City, Wasco, and Mitchell). Permitting continues with the appropriate authorities (ODOT, city or county governments) to ensure that the signs may be properly sited and installed once they are built. Since some permitting is taking longer than planned and Travel Oregon has extended funding through the end of 2017 to ensure the project can be completed.

2017 Donors and Sponsors

Stephen Carlson
Anne Heimlich
Linda & Lawrence Larsen
Charles & Phyllis Ault
Gary & Nancy Benguerel
Robert Strebin
Richard Ross
James & Marguerite Schellentrager
Darlene Daniel
Sylvia & John Broderick
Michael & Alice Powell
Edward & Carol Hausafus
David Griffith
Susan Herbert Imports
C. C. Baker
Jeffrey Kee
Patrick Flaherty
Bonnie & Stephen Lofton
Rodney McGuire
Bette Andrew & Remmal Nivens
Lisa Blackburn
Martin & Carolyn Winch
Shaw School Foundation
Ernest & Adele Barnett
Michael & Susan Hiscox
Odyssey School
Charlotte Corkran
Jeanette Kloos
Donita & Lee Walker
B.L. & M.E. Kavan
Fletcher & Page Frisch
Carman Almodovar
Lee Bouchard
Susan Hebert
Jan McGowan
Scott Klag & Elaine Glendering
Sandra Suran

**Thank you for
your ongoing
support!**

Oregon Paleo Lands Center Needs You!

You can support the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in a variety of ways. Your financial support now in 2017 is vital to continue our mission of exploring, teaching about, and protecting Oregon's paleo lands. Donor benefits include a 10% discount on retail merchandise at the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in Fossil, a regular newsletter with information about scientific discoveries, history, and news of the Paleo Lands, and advance notice of upcoming OPLI and partner organization events. All donations are tax deductible.

Interested in volunteering at the Center or serving on the Board?
Contact us at paleolands@gmail.com or www.paleolands.org or at PO
Box 104, Fossil, Oregon 97830 (541) 763-4480.