

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

September 2015

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**

How You Can Help Keep the Doors Open:

With donor support, the Paleo Lands Center expanded its summer hours this year to Thursday through Saturday. Regular donors and new Sponsors are essential to keep the doors open more days year round. Basic Center operations cost about \$1600-2000/month. With your regular support now, staffed Center hours can expand to five days a week next summer and several days in other seasons, starting this fall. For great educational and travel information every day, check out the Center's new outdoor visitor kiosk and access our website at: www.paleolands.org. Grants support the Center's special projects.

The Partner Project, supported by the Oregon Community Foundation and Meyer Trust, is soliciting major partners to share the Center. This school year the Center's schools project is providing expert speakers at local schools and assisting visiting schools with talks and tours, thanks to grants from the Juan Young Trust and Trust Management Services. Supported by the Wheeler Foundation over the next year, the Center will make some needed physical improvements, upgrade exhibits, and create a master development plan with new partners.

Under our Sponsor Policy, supporters can get their website and marketing promoted by the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute. Find out how at paleolands.org and consider a donation by PayPal. Thank you for helping us spread the word about the Seven Wonders of the John Day Basin. The Paleo Lands Center is open to serve visitors and schools year round by appointment at 541-763-4480.

Want to Volunteer?

The Paleo Lands Center invites you, to meet the public and school groups at our educational hub of the John Day Basin. Volunteers can serve as docents and help share exciting natural history exhibits, brochures, and books with visitors and schools.

Please Contact the Center at 541-763-4480 or paleolands@gmail.com for details and to schedule your times.

Camping for weekend volunteers is informally available at no cost on the Center grounds. The Wheeler County Fairgrounds in Fossil has a 12 space RV park with full hook-ups, including cable TV, as well as restroom and shower facilities. Phone: 541-763-4560. For other nearby camping or lodging options, check www.paleolands.org



Introducing Our Newest Board Member



Mark Amara is the newest elected member of the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board. Amara lives in Moses Lake, Washington. He retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2006 spending his entire 30 year + federal career in Washington and Oregon. He continues to work part time as an archaeologist with Cascadia Conservation District and the NRCS in Washington State and seasonally as a farm inspector for the Portland, Oregon based Food Alliance.

Amara's professional and personal experiences span the fields of geology, archaeology, soils, conservation planning, and gardening. He was a soil scientist in three counties in Washington and Oregon and served as a multi-county archaeologist in Washington. Amara co-authored a geologic road trips book in eastern Washington, and authored a historic places leaflet and a geologic tours guide map.

What drew Mark to the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute is his interest in learning more about and promoting the cultural history and earth sciences of the John Day region, finding ways to educate the public about the area's unique features, interest in finding opportunities to utilize his writing skills and to serve as a resource expert. We are happy to have Mark Amara join Jeffrey Kee, Bonnie Lofton, Richard Ross and John Anderson as outstanding members of the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board.

Oregon Travel Experience - Highway Signs

We are pleased to announce signage for the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute on Highway 19! We have already begun getting visitors guided to our center from these signs. We are hoping to get the hours corrected soon, since we are able to stay open a few days a week year round with the help of our grantors and donors!



OPLI Fall Hours

Summer is almost over, so our visitor center hours will be changing once again. Thanks to grantors and donors, doors will remain open on weekends; Saturday afternoons, and Sundays. Feel free to call or email and schedule your visit if you have a school group that would like to come in during the week. We are happy to assist you! Please check our website at paleolands.org for updated hours!

April - September 2015 Donors and Sponsors

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April - September 2015 Grantors

Wheeler County Cultural Trust
Wheeler Foundation
Trust Management Services

Thank you for your 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 2015 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.