

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

March 2016

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.

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Oregon Paleo Lands Institute's Place at the Table

by: Mark Amara

Though the Oregon Paleo Lands Interpretive Center was dormant a couple of years ago, the organization has been resurrected and is again making its way providing quality educational programs and connecting with visitors and students anxious to learn about the dynamic Oregon landscapes that make up the John Day Basin. The Oregon Paleo Lands center is in a strategic location for learning about the regions natural and cultural history.



Last fall 2015, the center was spruced up when a donor came forward to pay for staining a part of it. In early March 2016, the OPLI Board and staff began the arduous task of redefining the interior of the building. Plans are underway to shift exhibits around and move out unmarked and unlabeled specimens. Bookshelves have been consolidated to the front of the building to ensure there is better continuity within the space. Books were weeded and new books ordered for the spring. In May 2016, the Center plans a sale to sell off books and materials that do not fit quite as well as they used to and to make room for more appropriate products.

Highway 19 has new Tourist Oriented Directional signs to the center but obviously more could be done. There may be an opportunity to enhance the Fossil, Oregon gateway sign and even consider adding Oregon Paleo Lands Institute to it!



Redefined interior of the visitor center & bookstore.

If funding is secured, John Day River Territory will install a new John Day Basin kiosk out front of the Center. Currently, John Day region leaflets are available in holders on the outside of the building. Once a kiosk is installed, people will be directed to both information and abundant brochures.

Redefined interior of visitor center & bookstore.

Amazing Insects of the John Day Basin

The John Day Basin is a great place to find some amazing insects and understand predator-prey relations in the bug world. Here are some favorite John Day Basin bugs.



Robber Fly on the prowl



Thread-Waisted Wasp, feast for its Larvae

Then there is the popular Praying Mantis, which eats many other bugs, except when it is eaten by a lizard.

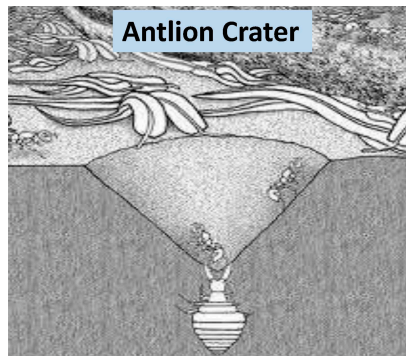
Another spectacular local resident is the Sphinx Moth, with giant fake blue eyes, that scare birds from eating it.

How many of these amazing insects have you come across?

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 Board Members, Advisors, Center helpers and 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.



Antlion Crater

The Ant Lion's ferocious larva digs craters to trap unwary ants (yum!) The Thread-Waisted Wasp collects large caterpillars to feed it's hungry larvae, at the bottom of its nest holes. The Robber Fly, or Assassin Fly, waits in ambush for a wide menu of innocent insect prey, which it catches in flight.



Sphinx Moth



Praying Mantis

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Thank you for your continued 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 2016 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.