Museum experts to help identify fossils, rocks and artifacts at annual event

EUGENE, Ore. -- (April 2, 2012) – The UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History will host its annual Identification Day and Roadshow event on Saturday, April 14, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visitors can bring objects to the museum such as fossils, rocks, or handmade artifacts and a panel of experts will be on hand to help identify them.

While no appraisals will be given at the event, Patricia Krier, the museum’s public programs director, believes that helping people identify significant objects promotes awareness and stewardship of our state’s natural and cultural history. “Last year, we helped a visitor identify a dinosaur bone as well as several interesting examples of basketry and ceramics. People tend to leave the event with a renewed appreciation for the importance of proper care and storage of such objects. In some cases, visitors have donated objects to the museum or other institutions for further study.”

The museum has enlisted the help of prehistoric and historic archaeologists, paleontologists, geologists, as well as tribal members for the event. Museum archaeologists Tom Connolly and Patrick O’Grady will help visitors with prehistoric artifacts such as ceramics, stone tools and non-fossilized bones; joining them will be Andrew Boehm, a PhD candidate from Southern Methodist University. Chelsea Rose, of Southern Oregon University, will help visitors with historic artifacts and antiques such as ceramics, glassware and other items from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

UO paleontologists Greg Retallack and Edward Davis, will examine animal and plant fossils and UO geologist Mark Reed will help identify non-fossil rocks and ores. In addition, specialists Jim Long, Brenda Brainard and Wilma Crowe will be offering flintknapping, weaving and beading demonstrations.

Regular admission rates will apply for the event: $3 for the general public, $2 for seniors and youth, $8 for families and free for children 2 and under, museum members and UO students, faculty and staff. Admission to the event also includes access to all exhibits currently on view: Explore Oregon! in the Making, Out in Space, Back in Time: Images from the Hubble Space Telescope, The Art of Nature by Becky Uhler, Oregon – Where Past is Present and Scientific at the Core.

About the Museum of Natural and Cultural History
The UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $3 for adults, $2 for seniors and youths ages 17 and under, and $8 for families (two adults and up to four youths). Museum members are admitted free. Guided tours are offered each Friday at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

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Links:
Museum of Natural and Cultural History: natural-history.uoregon.edu
MNCH on Facebook: facebook.com/oregonnaturalhistory