WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK
Help Us Build Our New Exhibit: Explore Oregon! in the Making
Open for Your Feedback Beginning March 9

1680 East 15th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon
Public Hours:
Wednesday through Sunday,
11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
541-346-3024
natural-history.uoregon.edu
Follow us on Facebook at
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Member, Association of Science-Technology Centers

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
Reaching Out

By Jon Erlandson, executive director

Although located in Eugene, the University of Oregon’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History serves a broad array of audiences and institutions statewide. As Oregon’s primary repository for archaeological, anthropological, paleontological, and other natural history collections, the MNCH was created to keep Oregon’s treasures from being carted off to distant lands. In our repository capacity, we help local, state, and federal agencies comply with multiple environmental and historic preservation laws. Currently, we store collections for the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and more. We care for those collections and make them accessible to student researchers and other scholars from around the world.

Our researchers have long been engaged in studying Oregon’s past in localities across the state—and beyond. The evidence of this is seen and heard across the state: in lectures delivered by MNCH staff members, on our website, in broadcast radio and television shows, in scholarly articles, and in books accessible to all. In the past two years alone, MNCH staff members published fifteen books, including Oregon Fossils, Oregon Archaeology, Northwest Coast: Archaeology as Deep History, and 10,000 Years of Shoes: Photographs by Brian Lanker.

We also serve and collaborate with government agencies, tribal programs, and other organizations statewide, from the Columbia to the Klamath and from Brookings to Baker City. In recent years, as the museum has grown and our funding has stabilized, the MNCH has also expanded its leadership role among museums throughout Oregon. In the past year alone, we assisted partner institutions around the state, including the Jensen Arctic Museum in Monmouth, the Southern Oregon Historical Society in Medford, the Favell Museum and Klamath County Museum in Klamath Falls, the Hallie Ford Museum at Willamette University, and more.

Together with the UO’s Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, we offer an extraordinary, expanding, and ever-changing array of exhibits and educational programming that are a magnet for students, families, retirees, and tourists. We continue to expand our archaeological, biological, ethnographic, geological, and paleontological collections, including a recent agreement to house the significant research rock collections held by the UO Department of Geological Sciences.

As this issue of Fieldnotes goes to press, we are planning a beautiful new exhibit hall devoted to the natural and geological history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, a project that will complete Phase 2 of our three-part expansion. In the process, we have more than doubled our exhibition space and we are building a research and teaching museum worthy of a PAC-12 and AAU university. A key to our continued success and stability is our current campaign to raise the museum endowment beyond the $10 million mark, a goal we are more than halfway to meeting. As we reach out to help a variety of partners across our state, we continue to be deeply grateful for your support. Your membership, contributions, volunteerism, and other gifts support the University of Oregon, Lane County residents, and other constituencies throughout the state and beyond!
MNCH Collections

A Window on Oregon’s Diversity

By Pamela Endzweig, director of anthropological collections

On the map, Oregon is a small corner of the United States. Zooming in on the region, however, reveals an astounding physiographic diversity, matched by the cultural diversity of Native peoples. Members of Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes represent speakers of more than twenty languages, recorded even after genocide and introduced epidemic diseases wiped out an enormous portion of the population. The material culture of Native Oregonians is equally diverse, varying over space and time in style, function, and materials.

Visitors to Oregon—Where Past Is Present know that some Native Oregonians lived in rectangular plank houses and others in round pit houses, that diets consisted of game, fish, and plant foods in varying proportions, depending on season and availability, and that indigenous peoples’ lifeways were and are dynamic, affected by their changing social and natural environments. The amazing variety of Native American baskets presents a window on the influence of local resources, ranging from the cylindrical baskets of Wasco and Wishram weavers near The Dalles to the soft flat rectangular bags of Plateau peoples in the northeast, and from the round twined trays that are signature Klamath weavings to the coiled and imbricated baskets of the northwest, a tradition extending into Washington and British Columbia. Even projectile points, superficially similar, show differences in style over space and time, and toolstones include more chert, obsidian, or basalt, depending on local availability, travel routes, and trading ties.

Specialized regional museums and cultural centers must exist to explore local history and it is important that they have collections to share with their communities. But it is also essential to understand the natural and cultural diversity of the entire state in a holistic way, and the interdependence of the region’s nature and cultures. Promoting this understanding is basic to our mission as Oregon’s central anthropological repository; collections from across Oregon and other regions allow comparative studies that would otherwise be difficult, and growing academic emphasis on interdisciplinary research is increasing opportunities to study human interaction with the natural environment. In addition, serving patrons who consult us from across the state, we are able to connect dots in a way that would otherwise be difficult at best. Thus a stone carving brought to us by its southwest Oregon owner in January, with information on an additional stone bowl, revealed previously undocumented resemblances to artwork of the Columbia River and Northwest Coast. We are only beginning to appreciate these linkages and how they developed over time. By preserving and sharing objects and documents, this knowledge will continue to grow, and hopefully provide enlightenment for us all.

Dugout Canoes Complete their Long Journey

MNCH staff members recently relocated two Klamath canoes from auxiliary storage to the museum’s new Collections Center. Dating from the first half of the last century, they were used for gathering wokas, an important food plant of the Klamath people. Though only traveling half a block, intensive planning was needed to transport the brittle vessels, which have cracked and fractured over time. In 2006, the canoes were stabilized by conservator Tom Fuller. Presentation Design Group, L.L.C. designed and built crates with a customized internal rib-and-cradle framework. Because of the size of the crates (fifteen and one-half and sixteen feet long, about 750 to 900 pounds each), Brian Cook and his crew from Lile Moving and Storage used lifts at both ends, raising and lowering them as needed. The sloped ramp to the Collections Center was a challenge, but everything went smoothly and the crates were lifted onto a special cantilevered rack for safe storage. Removable front panels will allow the canoes to be viewed and studied without risking their safety.
The Gold Hill site is iconic in Oregon archaeology. In 1930 a new UO sociology professor, Luther Cressman, was invited to the site by a farmer who had exposed a Native village and cemetery while leveling an agricultural field. This visit turned Cressman to the study of archaeology, ultimately resulting in the founding of the MNCH and the UO Department of Anthropology. For decades it was believed that the site had been completely destroyed, but fieldwork last summer showed that portions of the site remain intact, allowing protective measures to be implemented.

In central Oregon, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is developing new facilities on recently acquired land bordering the John Day River. We identified two sites on the property that will be protected and used to interpret Oregon’s deep history for park visitors. One site is a historic homestead with a rude “dugout” dwelling dating to AD 1890; the other is a Native American settlement with a nearly continuous record of occupation spanning the last 4,000 years.

When the Interstate Highway was built through the Columbia River Gorge in the 1950s and ’60s, portions of the older Historic Columbia River Highway—hailed as an engineering marvel through some of the world’s most spectacular landscapes—were severed from access or destroyed. The Oregon Department of Transportation is creating a hiking and biking trail from Portland to The Dalles that will follow surviving segments of the original highway and create new connecting trails. In a 2011 study of the route, we documented evidence of earlier transportation efforts, including parts of the original wagon road through the gorge built in the 1870s, grades from the gorge’s first railroad built in the 1880s, and other features. These elements will provide points of historical interest along the new trail.

These examples illustrate the important role we play in studying, protecting, and interpreting Oregon’s heritage in venues beyond our local community.
OPENS FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Explore Oregon! In the Making

Be part of the museum’s growth: Help us build our new exhibit hall! Over the next six months, you are invited to participate and evaluate our progress during this preliminary phase. Your feedback will help us determine the exhibit’s final design.

KICK-OFF EVENT: FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 6:00–8:00 P.M.

Be among the first to experience Explore Oregon! in the Making. Through interactive stations, you are invited to share your ideas about what works and what needs more work.

Out in Space, Back in Time: Images from the Hubble Space Telescope

THROUGH FEBRUARY 2013

Telescopes on Earth have always faced an obstacle when looking to the sky: the Earth’s atmosphere. By contrast, the Hubble telescope takes amazingly clear pictures—even 340 million light-years away to the distant Rose Galaxies. Discover the universe in this exhibit of photographs and interactive features.

Pacific Northwest Artists Series
The Art of Nature by Becky Uhler

THROUGH JUNE 24, 2012

As an artist and natural science illustrator, Becky Uhler strives to bridge the gap between what we see with our eyes and the intricate systems in nature. Her goal is “to accurately represent the unique features of a species and, especially, to bring out the essence of the being.” The exhibit includes watercolor originals and prints of native plant and animal life.

ONGOING EXHIBITS

Oregon—Where Past Is Present

Explore Oregon’s deep history from the dynamic processes that shaped its landscape to the artistry and technology of its first peoples.

Scientific at the Core

What is it like to be a scientist? Our interactive laboratory introduces visitors to the fundamentals of scientific inquiry through hands-on activities for people of all ages.
### Archaeology Summer Camps

Register now! Using the interdisciplinary nature of archaeology, campers will explore Oregon’s diverse heritage, natural landscapes, and ecosystems. Camp activities encourage cooperation and instill a sense of wonder and stewardship in Oregon’s past, present, and future.

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*10 percent discount for families with more than one child attending camp.

**SESSION 1:** Explore nature, science, and culture. Dig at our mock excavation site and research your findings in the classroom lab. Learn about Native American traditions by making baskets, cordage, and beads. Enjoy group games and activities as well as plenty of time outdoors. Using cooperation and imagination, campers will appreciate Oregon’s past and consider how we can protect our future. This session is best for children who are new to the museum.

**SESSION 2:** Using a combination of scientific inquiry and traditional knowledge, campers will explore culture, history, and landscapes from Oregon and beyond. Families and friends are invited for an exhibit open house on the last day of camp. This session is best for children with some experience at the museum.

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### Plan a Field Trip!

Interested in scheduling a fieldtrip for your child’s class? The museum welcomes students of all ages, ability levels and backgrounds to explore exhibits and participate in hands-on learning.

For more information contact Jules Abbott, education coordinator, at 541-346-1694 or mnhtours@uoregon.edu.

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### Little Wonders: Stories and Activities for Prekindergarteners

**Wednesday, March 7:**
*Is There Life in Outer Space?* by Franklyn M. Branley
Take an adventure into space to explore meteorites and photographs in the exhibit, *Out in Space, Back in Time.*

**Wednesday, April 4:**
*Fur and Feathers* by Janet Halfmann
Make your own animal coat to take home using fun materials like cotton balls, feathers, and yarn.

**Wednesday, May 2:**
*Habitat Spy* by Cynthia Kiefer-King
Play “I Spy” as you journey through the exhibits to find animals in their habitats.

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### After-School and Totally Cool Museum Archaeology Club 2012

**Wednesdays, April 11–May 30, 3:30–5:30 p.m.**
Grades three to five: Join this fun after-school club that explores archaeology and paleontology. Examine artifacts, bones, and fossils. Behind-the-scenes tours visit some of the museum’s coolest fossils—like a giant mammoth tusk and the famed saber-tooth salmon. Preregistration is required. $110, general; $95, MNCH members.
### March

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<td><strong>1</strong> The Art of Nature by Becky Uhler, artist reception, 5:00–7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>9</strong> Explore Oregon! In the Making, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Guided tours</td>
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<td><strong>13</strong> Guided tours, 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Free with admission.</td>
<td><strong>14</strong> Identification Day and Roadshow, 1:00–4:00 p.m.</td>
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### Identification Day and Roadshow

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1:00–4:00 P.M.**

Have you found something cool, but are not sure what it is? If so, bring it in and our experts will discuss it with you. In the past, our scientists have helped visitors identify rare fossils and artifacts, sometimes from their own backyards! This event is free for MNCH members; regular admission rates apply for the public.
May is MUSE Month—a month dedicated to supporting local museums and their programs! Find your MUSE at www.museumslanecounty.org.

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May is MUSE Month—a month dedicated to supporting local museums and their programs! Find your MUSE at www.museumslanecounty.org.

Join Us!
Get ready for spring break and summer fun! Become a Friend of the Museum.

- **Individual**—$40
  - Membership benefits:
    - Free admission to all exhibits and events
    - Invitation to exhibit previews
    - Membership card and sticker
    - Subscription to *Fieldnotes*, the museum newsletter
    - Invitation to Friends of the Museum members-only program
    - Priority registration for Friends of the Museum-sponsored field trips
    - 10 percent off on purchases at the museum store, Past and Presents
    - Reciprocal benefits at more than 200 museums and science centers worldwide!

- **Family**—$50
  - Enjoy the previous benefits for two adults and up to four youths

- **Supporter**—$100
  - Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
    - Four complimentary guest passes to share

- **Contributer**—$250
  - Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
    - Two complimentary family memberships to give as gifts

- **Benefactor**—$500
  - Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
    - A behind-the-scenes tour by a museum specialist

- **Director’s Circle**—$1,000+
  - Enjoy the previous benefits plus:
    - Special event and acknowledgement with directors

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E-mail__________________________________________

- Visa □ MasterCard □

Account Number__________________________________________
Expiration Date__________________________________________
Signature__________________________________________

Mail with payment to UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1224 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1224 or join online at natural-history.uoregon.edu.

For more information, contact Judi Pruitt, judip@uoregon.edu. Allow at least two weeks for your membership packet to arrive. Thank you for supporting the museum!
Why is There a Condon Collection?

By Greg Retallack, codirector, Condon Collection

The Condon Collection now consists of more than 65,000 fossils, modern bones, and other natural history objects. The collection is a basis for exhibits, including the recent Paleolab series and the new Explore Oregon! exhibit in progress, but is also a research resource.

Some 3,440 of our fossils are from Thomas Condon’s historic collection. He came with many fossils as professor of geology and natural sciences at the UO in 1876, and continued to build the collection for teaching and research. The 200 type specimens of the Condon Collection are essential standards for research, drawing scientific visitors from around the world. Fossil horses collected by Condon were instrumental in nineteenth-century understanding of horse evolution and are still a centerpiece in public understanding of evolution. The fossils and bones continue to be studied by students and faculty members of the geological sciences, anthropology, geography, and biology departments at the UO.

Over 300 scientific publications have been based on the collections since 1902 when Condon published Two Islands, the first account of Oregon geology. These publications include a museum bulletin series, as well as papers and books published internationally, several of which can be found on the MNCH’s website. The collection is also the state-mandated repository for fossils collected through state or federally funded projects. As a public heritage of the state of Oregon, it requires preservation in perpetuity, and it is literally irreplaceable.

Oregon’s unique geology and geography has given our collection a distinctive strength in mammal, plant, and marine fossils of the past 50 million years. This time span includes dramatic climatic changes, including a middle Miocene carbon dioxide–greenhouse gas spike comparable with what is predicted from fossil fuel emissions by the year 2100. Thus our collections are uniquely suited to research understanding not only the recent geological history of Oregon, but also its near future. We call this kind of research conservation paleobiology, because it is based on fossil records of past life and can help guide efforts to mitigate losses of ecosystem function that follow in the wake of future climate change. With current global warming, some hillsides will become available for planting of Douglas fir, but others now bear their last viable crop of this valuable timber tree. Cheat grass is just the first of a series of invasive grasses that will turn eastern Oregon’s sagebrush deserts into grasslands, and eventually croplands. Iconic Oregon rodents such as mountain beaver (Aplodontia rufa) will earn their name, becoming restricted to high peaks.

The political consequences of global change for an unspoiled region like Oregon are difficult to predict, but we can and are doing something to understand the biological consequences of global change. In each decade of my career, I have seen expensive research equipment come and go as technology advances. In contrast, the Condon Collection has endured and grown in value since 1876, and it is a working resource for understanding the future of Oregon.
Public Education Reaches Beyond the Museum

By Patricia Krier, director of development and public programs

When you think of museum tours, what is your first reaction—a docent standing in front of a group of children, carrying on a monologue about the exhibit? Let me assure you museum education has changed! Engagement, interactive, experiential, hands on—these are some of the buzz words you’ll hear, where the visitors, whatever age, become more involved in the learning process; where the questions asked and the process experienced are more important than the answers. At the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, educational outreach thrives on this approach and we have extended our reach well beyond the museum walls.

In addition to serving the Eugene-Springfield community, we regularly host tour groups from Harrisburg, Pleasant Hill, Veneta, Roseburg, and beyond. Tribal members frequently bring their cultural school classes to the museum. For schools that cannot visit the museum, we have created classroom curricula, such as the current program at River Road Elementary Choice Class, where approximately one-third of the students are Spanish-speaking.

Campus collaboration is also encouraged—academic programs such as the Environmental Leadership; Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management; Human Settlements (PPPM 617); Oregon Indians; Critical and Sociocultural Studies in Education; World Archaeology (ANTH 150); and Freshman Interest Groups all take part in what the museum has to offer.

Beyond campus, our archaeological and paleontological researchers travel statewide, presenting their scientific finds in outlying communities as far away as Burns, Lakeview, Fossil, Bend, and Sunriver. Further abroad we have had international presentations in Canada, Iceland, Japan, Spain, Denmark, Gibraltar, and Scotland.

Through our education programs, MNCH exemplifies the UO’s mission to serve not only its students, but also the people of Oregon, the nation, and the world.

In Memoriam: Kent Christoferson

January 4, 1927—October 5, 2011

Years ago, our first museum board of Friends president, Bill Johnson, brought a guest to the museum, a quiet man with a friendly smile and a willingness to serve. Kent Christoferson soon became an important volunteer, joining the museum board and engaging in many of the educational outreach programs. Over the years, he made a number of estate gifts to the museum, particularly for educational tours and the new exhibit hall. We are grateful to Kent and will miss his sweet smile and the glimmer in his eye.

Thank You, Pacific Continental!

We extend many thanks to Pacific Continental Bank (PCB) for continuing to help expand the museum’s teaching mission. As a sponsor of the MNCH’s K–12 education programs, PCB provides collaborative support that helps the museum reach hundreds of school children each year.

Landmark Expansion: Nearing Our Goal

We have raised 95 percent of our goal for Phase 2 of our expansion plan—$1,559,500 out of $1,650,000—for the creation of our new Explore Oregon! exhibit hall. Be a part of this historic expansion with a donation of any amount. Contact Patricia Krier, director of development and public programs, at pkrier@uoregon.edu, 541-346-5089.
The MNCH will have two of the thirty-six speaker’s slots at the Center for the Study of the First Americans’ Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference in October of 2013. Dennis Jenkins, MNCH archaeologist, and Jon Erlandson, executive director, were invited to speak at this international event featuring scholars from the United States, Russia, Japan, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Denmark, Argentina, and Brazil. The conference is dedicated to discussing new evidence and issues about the problem of the peopling of the Americas.

With ten people from the UO paleontology research community making eight presentations, we were one of the largest contingents at the Vertebrate Paleontology Meeting, held in Las Vegas last November. Students Amy Atwater, Brianna McHorse, Kelsey Stilson, Win McLaughlin and John Orcutt contributed five of the presentations. Edward Davis, Condon Collections manager, presented his analysis of horse foot bones from Paisley Caves, Oregon. In addition, David Levering, a UO alumnus, presented his work with Samantha Hopkins and Edward Davis on the evolution of limbs in ungulates—large herbivores like horses, deer, and antelope.

As a fifth-generation Oregonian from a family of teachers, sophomore Hannah Picknell has brought a winning combination of reliability, friendliness, and hard work to the MNCH’s visitor services team. She first discovered the museum from a writing assignment in her introductory anthropology class and became fascinated by the Oregon—Where Past Is Present exhibit hall. She began working at the museum shortly thereafter, assisting visitors in the galleries and staffing the museum store. As an anthropology major, she plans on attending an archaeological field school in Ireland this summer and hopes to earn a PhD in the field. All of this is made more remarkable by the fact that she spends two to three hours a day in track practice. As a discus thrower, Hannah trains for technique, strength, and endurance. “My grandfather, Terry Picknell, played football for the UO on Hayward Field and my aunt Kathy threw discus for the Ducks in the 1970s—a part of me feels like I am upholding the family tradition.” Hannah, thank you for your dedication to the MNCH!
Shop Where Your Dollars Matter!

A purchase at Past and Presents, the museum store, is a gift to the museum and its educational programs.

Nature-Inspired Cards

Need to send a thank you card or write a note to someone special? Think about finding that card at Past and Presents. The museum store carries an assortment of note cards by local artists: Becky Uhler’s delicate scientific illustrations, Marli Miller’s sweeping mountain vistas, Terri Warpinksi’s photographic field studies, and Roka Walsh’s bold botanical photography.

Right: Becky Uhler, Common Camas, Camassia

Shoe Shopping?

Find inspiration in the MNCH’s latest publication, 10,000 Years of Shoes. This book features the photography of the late Brian Lanker and includes over 125 dazzling “portraits” of shoes through the ages. Recently featured in Oregon Quarterly, the book is available at Past and Presents for $34.99. Members receive a 10 percent discount.