



ORMA J. SMITH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Year in review July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017



## Mission Statement

The Orma J Smith Museum of Natural History seeks to instill an awareness of the natural world through educational program of The College of Idaho, provide public service, and serve the general and research public by holding in trust collections of zoological, botanical, paleontological, archaeological, anthropological, and other natural history objects for this and future generations. The Museum adds depth and intellectual development to the education of College of Idaho students by making the materials entrusted to it available for classroom, research, and other appropriate educational use. The Museum serves the students and general public by offering tours, interpretive displays, and other educational programs that foster life-long learning by all who visit.

## Vision Statement

The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History will be the premier collections-based environmental education and natural history resource in our region. The Museum's programs and resources will be integrated into the educational programs of the college to help meet the needs of College of Idaho students and provide outreach to the general public.

This was amazing. We < 3 it!  
- the Christensen family

2016 Annual Report  
Produced by Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History  
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Photographers: Hill Street Studios, Jan Summers Duffy, Will Hoenike, Dave Ward, Jr., William H. Clark, Stephen Bouffard, Barbara Ertter, Aurora Cossairt, Dawn Janney

## Our Board

Dr. Barbara Ertter,  
*Board Chair*

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*Museum Director*

Dr. Ron Bitner

Dr. Rochelle Johnson

Dr. Julia Sankey

Dr. Chris Walser

Dr. Eric Yensen

Randy Whipple

Dave Cannamela

Will Callahan,

*Student Rep*

*(Aug 2016-May 2017)*

Aurora Cossairt,

*Student Representative*

*(June 2017— )*

## Our Staff

William Clark,  
*Museum Director*

Diane Rice,  
*Museum Assistant*

## Director's Message



Beautiful work by wonderful volunteers.

- the Ehlers family

# Our Volunteers

Adeline Glover, Alan Gillogly, Alex Takasugi, Allan Wylie, Amy Silver, Amy Truksa, Andras Britschgi, Anel Vanand, Anna Chase, Anne Halford, Ashley Rohde, Aurora Cossairt, Austin Reich, Barbara Ertter, Barry Bean, Bea Purchase, Becky Hanson, Becky Hays, Betty Mallorca, Bill Nance, Bill Peters, Billie Farley, Bob

Bashford, Bob Fallen, Bob Hays, Bob Mussaw, Butch Potts, Carol Mann, Carol Prentice, Carolina Zhen, Carolyn Larsen, Carolyn Rees, Carolyn Whipple, Catherine Badgley, Cayla Smith, Caymen Dansby, Chris Walser, Christine Pantiledes, Cliff Eldemiller, Corey Jones, Cory Miller, Craig Baird, Dale Ralston, Dan DeVonce, Darlene Emry, Dave Gregor, Dave Ward, Jr., David Valentine, Dawn Janney, Debbie DeVonce, Dennis Feeney, Diane Miller, Diane Pannetta, Dianne Salisbury, Don Dixon, Don Zaroban, Doug Dickson, Dwayne Winslow, Eileen Thuesen, Elizabeth Dickey, Ellie Dickey, Eric Clover, Eric Yensen, Gabe Street, Gerald Smith, Geri Van Curen, Greg Evans, Hadley Reeves, Helen Harrington, Howard Emry, Ian Brown, Iscaac Hodges, Jack Cafferty, Jacob Shelton, Jan Kerfoot, Jan Summers Duffy, Janice Jones, Jennifer Street, Jerry Wood, Jim Ryan, Jody Lewis, Joe Fudor, John Hartman, John Neddo, John Ottenhoff, Judie Stecial, Julia Sankey, Justin Conley, Kaitlin Maguire, Kathleen Cookman, Kathleen McCarter, Kim Bashford, Kim McEwan, Kim Monnier, Kirk Duering, Kris Perdeus, Larry Bartischek, Lee Hayton, Leland Thames, Leta Wilson, Lindy Westerdorf, Lynda Pearson, Mary Clark, Max Born, Melissa Murillo, Mia Callahan, Michael Ferdinand, Mike Twitchell, Molly Vitale-Sullivan, Nate Carpenter, Neal Baronian, Neil Potts, Olivia Glover, Pat Gillogly, Pat Packard, Patrick Fields, Patsy Shandera, Paul Blom, Paul Castrovillo, Randy Whipple, Renee Breedlovestrout, Rex Hanson, Richard Hall, Richard Salisbury, Rick Heathman, Rochelle Johnson, Roger Groberg, Rolf Aalbu, Ron Bitner, Rose Hanson, Sherrie Potts, Skylar Brown, Stacie Glover, Stephanie Shank, Steve Bouffard, Steve Hall, Teresa Tarifa, Tom Trent, Troy Born, Val Ward, Wayne Lewis, Will Callahan, Wylamanie Cruz, Zach Shephard, Zoe Hern

# IMPACT

by the numbers

1270

people visited the Museum

7 school groups 5 scout groups

16

students from the College of Idaho art classes  
sketched in the Museum

13

Gipson Scholars studied in the Museum

5

6-10 year old kids for the College of Idaho Art  
Camp

43

7th & 8th grade students visited during the  
*College of Idaho's* Math & Science Fair

VOLUNTEERS DONATED  
IN THE MUSEUM

5266 HOURS

Economic impact of volunteer hours is

\$113,903.58

(per [independentsector.org](http://independentsector.org))

12

speakers presented during  
monthly seminar talks



Great little gem at The College of Idaho  
- The Cameron family



# COLLECTIONS by the numbers

~ #

## TOTAL SPECIMENS & ARTIFACTS

- # Insect Specimens
- # Mollusk Specimens
- # Invertebrate Specimens
- # Fish Specimens
- # Amphibian Specimens
- # Reptile Specimens
- # Bird Specimens
- # Mammal Specimens
- # Fossil Specimens
- # Mineral Specimens
- 5,000 Cultural Artifacts
- # Research Library Holdings

## ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT STRUGGLES WITH WEATHER

With a cold and rainy Sunday, the annual butterfly count had to be rescheduled for two weeks later. Participants hiked through the Military Reserve, stopped along Bogus Basin, and searched for butterflies around Mores Mountain. Over 400 butterfly specimens were observed.



## ARCHAEOLOGY FEATURES LOCAL DIG IN EXHIBIT

Featuring an exhibit on artifacts excavated at Jump Creek Cave by Idaho Archaeological Society and Archaeology Curator William Nance, the museum celebrated Archaeology Month. Jump Creek Cave is site an archaeologically excavated rock shelter located in the Owyhee front in Idaho. Data indicates it is a late prehistoric hunting and game processing site.

Wonderful exhibits!

- Ken & Dorothy Baker

## VISITING ENTOMOLOGIST DISCOVERS TREASURES IN OUR COLLECTION



Dr. Rolf L. Aalbu, Entomologist, California Academy of Sciences, spent two days in the museum in July working with the beetle family Tenebrionidae (Darkling Beetles) with Beetle Curator, Dr. Al Gillogly, and Museum Director, William H. Clark. Rolf accomplished many tasks including the identification of thousands of beetles (15+ California Academy of Science insect drawers of volume). Rolf found at least one species new to science (and perhaps more) in the collection, which he termed "the largest collection of arthropods/insects from Baja California, Mexico, in the world." The collection is used by researchers world-wide.

## EVANS GEM AND MINERALS COLLECTIONS NAMES CURATOR

Nate Carpenter was named the curator for the Evans Gem and Minerals Collections in July after the resignation of Dr. O. David Johnson previously in the year. This enabled the museum to undertake the tremendous task of moving the Evans Collections from the first floor of Boone Science Hall to the Museum. Nate was aided in the move by Will Callahan, Howard Emry, Darlene Emry, William H. and Mary Clark, Mike Twitchell, Troy and Max Born, Bob and Rick Mussaw, Julia Sankey [...]. The move was completed by the end of the summer and their attention turned towards preparing it for exhibit within the museum.

The Gem collection is a great addition!

- the Hinberg family



## LOCAL SUMMER URBAN DIG PROVIDES ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE TO STUDENTS

Working on the grassy slope at Old Fort Boise, Archaeology Curator Jan Summers Duffy and the College of Idaho students participated in the University of Idaho-led archaeological survey to make sure no significant historic materials would be lost with the building of a new parking garage. The team got hands-on experience sifting soil, handling, and cataloging artifacts. Most of the artifacts were small items, such as buttons. All of the artifacts were indexed at the University of Idaho.

## IDAHO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MEMBERS HELP IDENTIFY FOSSILS IN OUR COLLECTION

Dr. Dennis Feeney and Dr. Rene Breedlovestout from Idaho Geological Survey arrived mid-afternoon and worked until after midnight in August with Paleontology Curator Patrick Fields. Several Paddock Reservoir area fossils were identified. Some of these fossils were donated to the Museum.

New species from localities from which we have collected in the past were included in this research. Additionally, small collections from new fossil locations were added to our records. The visit also included a road trip through the Succor Creek area and a stop at the Fossil Hill site.

## CURATOR TEACHES VISUALLY IMPAIRED ABOUT BIRDS

**B**ird curator Stephen Bouffard led two sessions for the visually impaired to learn about birds. In June, he led a trip for 10 participants from the Boise Chapter of the National Federation for the Blind through Veteran's Memorial Park in Boise. A few weeks later, he gave a "feel and tell" session on birds and their songs to twenty children and adults at a Braille Education Learning and Literacy training session. They played songs of local birds, provided specimens the participants could touch, and gave a short lecture.



## MUSEUM INVITED TO INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

**D**espite not being located in Boise, the Museum was invited to have a table at the Boise Museum Association's International Museum Day. Held at the Idaho Botanical Gardens, the Museum connected with other organizations and the public. The table was near the entrance so that the 2,000+ attendees had an opportunity to learn about the museum. The table included information about insects, fossils, and more.



## CREEPY CRAWLY OUTDOOR FUN CONTINUES

**C**o-hosted by the Idaho Botanical Gardens, Bug Day continued to be one of the Museum's best public outreach opportunity. For the 17th year in a

Kids loved it!

- The Gatz family

row, the Museum setup a table and kids had the chance to become a Bug-ologist. In addition to teaching kids about all the bugs they could find, the Museum also brought their gift shop along to spread our name as far and wide as possible. With an entire table devoted to the gift shop and the ability to process credit cards, the Museum raised \$663.37



## MUSEUM AWARDS FIRST STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

**A**nnouncing the first student research grant in August, the Museum supported Anna Chase and her field work on local mollusks. Her proposed research project "Lower Boise River Mollusk Inventory" took place late in the summer to take advantage of lower river flows. The fund was initiated by Dr. Julia Sankey, a C of I alumna, with contributions from current



## EAGLE SCOUT EARNS BADGE WITH MUSEUM PROJECT

Organizing, fundraising and completing a project for the museum, Eagle Scout Skylar Brown improved the mammal storage area and learned valuable lessons. Discovering that the best material for replacing the old, dilapidated shelves in the mammal curation was a bit pricey, Skylar undertook a brief fundraiser by selling bags of

chocolate-drizzled popcorn. With his dad's support, he completed the project, learning project and time management skills.

## COLLEGE OF IDAHO STUDENTS DELVE INTO THE COLLECTIONS

Inspired by a similar program at Harvard University, Professor Rochelle Johnson challenged thirteen First-Year Honor students to discover the greater meaning of Museum specimens. The students, all College of Idaho Gipson Fellows, chose an object from the Museum's collections to research in-depth. This research, which included working closely with curators as well as research outside of the Museum, resulted in papers, oral presentations, a website, and an exhibit with the Museum. This project is made possible in part by a Mellon Foundation grant.



## GIANT, SPIKE-TOOTHED SALMON & GALAPAGOS-SIZED TORTOISES INVADE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

During 2016's The College of Idaho's Homecoming celebration, the Museum hosted its annual Night at the Museum event. Dr. Julia Sankey, a Professor of Paleobiology/Geology at California State

University, Stanislaus presented her research on the 5 million year old wildlife of Central California. Additionally, the museum honored Jan Summers Duffy as the 2016 Outstanding Museum Volunteer.



## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

*Museum affiliates are indicated by bold*

Broughton, J. M., and **G. R. Smith**, 2016, Fishes of Lake Bonneville; Implications for drainage history, biogeography and lake levels, pp. 292-351 in C. G. Oviatt and J. Schroder, eds, Lake Bonneville: A Scientific Update, Earth Science Processes, vol. 20. Elsevier, Amsterdam.

**Clark, W.H.**, and **R. Salisbury**. 2016. New land snail records for Baja California Sur, Mexico. *Conchylia* 47(3-4):59-64.

**Clark, W.H.** and R.L. Westcott. 2017. *Chrysobothris knulli* Nelson, 1975 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in Baja California Sur, Mexico. *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 71(3):1-3.

Roeder, M. A., **G. R. Smith**, R. E. Reynolds, 2016. New records of fossil freshwater bony fish from the lower Colorado River Valley of southeastern California and western Arizona. *Desert Symposium*, 2016:

**Stearley, R. F.**, and **G. R. Smith**, 2016, Fishes of the Mio-Pliocene Western Snake River Plain and Vicinity. *Museum of Zoology Miscellaneous Paper* 204:1-43. University of Michigan.

**Smith, G. R.**, J. Chow, P. J. Unmack, D. F. Markle, and T. E. Dowling. 2017, Evolution of the *Rhinichthys osculus complex* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) in Western North America. *Museum of Zoology Miscellaneous Paper*, 204 (2):44- . University of Michigan.

## MONTHLY SEMINAR TOPICS

July 9 Seminar: Dr. Paul Castrovillo, OJSMNH - "The Rarest Butterflies Encountered on the Boise Front 4J Butterfly Counts."

August 6 Seminar: Dr. Pat Fields, Olivet College and OJSMNH - "A Costa Rica Adventure"

September 10 Seminar: Ashley Rohde, USGS - "Insect community response to disturbance and altered habitat in sagebrush ecosystems."

October 1 Seminar: Dr. Eric Yensen, OJSMNH - "Idaho Ground Squirrel Translocation."

November 5 Seminar: Teresa Tarifa, OJSMNH - "The Andean hairy armadillo: current knowledge, cultural importance and conservation challenges"

December 3 Seminar: Dr. Kari Prassack, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument - "300,000th generation Idahoan: the fossil record of some of Idaho's 'pests'"

January 7 Seminar: Dr. Barbara Ertter, OJSMNH - "Western Canada Transect: Prairies to the Pacific"

February 4 Seminar: Dr. Roger Long, Biology Dept., CofI - "Effects of Grazing and Agriculture on Native Plant Communities in the Sagebrush Sea"

March 4 Seminar: Dr. Gerald R. Smith, Univ. Michigan and OJSMNH and Nathan Carpenter, OJSMNH - "The Yellowstone Hotspot Track and Miocene Fish Distributions."

April 1 Seminar: Dr. Craig R. Baird, OJSMNH - "Bees of the Northwest with an Update of the Bee Collection in Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History -- 2017"

May 6 Seminar: Anna Chase, OJSMNH - "Boise River Mollusk Survey"

June 3 Seminar: William H. Clark & Mary Clark, OJSMNH - "Pinturas y Petroglyphs de Valle de los Cirios, Baja California, México"

FINANCIALS

DONORS



THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO  
**ORMA J. SMITH  
 MUSEUM OF  
 NATURAL HISTORY**

Super fascinating! 10/10 would recommend!  
 - the Pratt family

Amazing place!  
 - Tyler Vickers

Awesome place!  
 - Deb Harris