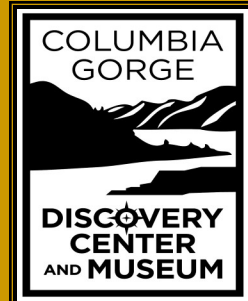


# Columbia Gorge Discovery Center

## Annual Report

2011



The Discovery Center faced both a challenging and rewarding year in 2011. We hosted 23,486 visitors from every state in the country and 39 other countries spanning the world. Here are a few of the highlights...

### Education

Seventy-nine school groups visited the Discovery Center in 2011 with approximately 2,504 students. Most were from within 150 miles, but some came from as far away as Utah and California. In addition, 66 video conferences, including a new program entitled “Events That Transformed the American West,” reached 2,112 students throughout the United States and Canada.

For a second year, the Discovery Center’s Steve Thompson was the recipient of the Pinnacle Award by the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration. This award goes to the top 25 content providers world-wide. Four educational workshops focusing on nature, science, and ways of Native American life served 65 participants.

Thirty-one public programs held throughout the year included author presentations and book signings, living history performances, an astronomy lecture and night sky viewing, film screenings, history and natural history presentations, concerts, and more.



### Exhibits

Enhancements to our extensive exhibits included a new stewardship video, entitled “Stewardship for the Next Generation,” designed to challenge people to make a difference through their personal actions and choices. Produced by Laughing Deva, LLC, this project was funded by Oregon Investment Board and Washington Investment Board.

A children’s art exhibit, “Wind, Water, and Wow,” premiered in the board room in conjunction with the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the National Scenic Act.

Two new films related to our regional history were screened in our theater. “Meek’s Cutoff” sold out for two showings, and “Roll on Columbia” was accompanied by an evening of musical entertainment written by legendary singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie.

Celebrating small farms, the Discovery Center parking lot housed the “Running Fruit Ladders” exhibit, courtesy of artist John Maher. The colorful fruit ladders made an impact as they were visible from I-84.

## Community Involvement

Ensuring that the Discovery Center is available to everyone regardless of income level, we provided many opportunities for free or reduced admission throughout the year. Our community days included Mother's Day, Father's Day, Holiday Open House, and Spring Break for both Oregon and Washington children and offered free admission. Fort Dalles Days brought the opportunity to allow rodeo ticket holders a 2 for 1 admission price while the Blue Star Museums Program offered free admission for active military families. Family Day passes were also made available for check-out at The Dalles-Wasco County Library.



Digging for artifacts in the Kid's Explorer room during a "Free" day.

We support non-profits in our region in many ways. Family Day passes were provided to 138 non-profit organizations and agencies throughout the region as auction items and prizes for their fundraising efforts. We participated in the "GO RED" cancer awareness event and the Festival of Trees which raises money for the Mid-Columbia Health Foundation. We also hosted regular meetings of the Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society and Wasco County Pioneer Association.

## Partnerships

The Discovery Center partners with numerous organizations on many efforts. Over the past year, our partnerships included:

- Oregon State University Libraries hosting the Wasco County Pioneer Photo Collection on-line
- University of Oregon and The Dalles Chronicle facilitating the scanning and long-term preservation of the Chronicle archives dating to 1860's
- Gorge Explorers continued for a third year in partnership with North Wasco School District 21 and Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute
- The First Annual Clean Energy Film Festival was hosted in collaboration with Columbia Gorge Community College and Delta Energy Club
- Rowena Wildlife Clinic and Dr. Jean Cypher's for crucial care of our avian ambassadors
- Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the National Scenic Act included extensive activities at The Discovery Center. Activities were presented in partnership with the Columbia River Gorge Commission, Friends of the Gorge, USDA Forest Service, and many others
- Education staff worked with the Forest Service on the Eagle View Program at Balfour Klickitat Park and The Discovery Center

## WCHM Press

*Win-Quatt: A Brief History of The Dalles, Oregon* by Phil and Linda Klindt and edited by Carolyn Wood and Widge Johnson was published by the press this year. The first printing yielded 1000 copies that flew off the shelves at both at Klindt's Booksellers and the Museum Store. Carolyn and Widge participated in numerous book signings including one at our Holiday Open House. With the great sales of this local treasure, we are already into a second printing.



Carolyn and Widge busy signing *Win-Quatt* at our Holiday Open House.

## Volunteer Program

A total of 4,658 hours were contributed to the Discovery Center in 2011 by a total of 82 amazing volunteers. They helped staff the raptor program, store, and library, greeted visitors, cleaned up the grounds, folded newsletters, made public presentations, and were always willing to jump in wherever needed. We held the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in January 2012 that gave staff and board members an opportunity to say “thanks!”

Our volunteers were also a crucial part of hosting the Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the National Scenic Act and the Holiday Open House.



Grounds clean-up by the Gorge Explorers.

## Collections

Collections continued to grow with many donations made throughout the year. Items included photographs, maps, furniture, household items, records of local organizations, military uniforms, mammoth bones, and much more. Our 2011 collections donors included:

Baker Heritage Museum	Mary Jackson	Lani Roberts
Anne Bialous	Rustin Kimsey	Don Scheele
Jim Boyea	Barbara Kiser	Marilynn Shaw
Dixie Cheek	Bob & Gayle Kitch	The Dalles-Wasco Co. Library
Dennis Cullen	Stephanie Klindt	Brenda & Paul Tupper
Camilla Thompson Donnell	John Lundell	Robert Wiley
Zelek Martin Donnell	Shirley & William Lytle	Stephanie Williams
Kenneth Duncan	Donna McCoy	Larry Wolfe
Sally Forster	Roseann McElheran	Carolyn Wood
Jim Healy	Sid Moody	Joan Woodcock
Jeanne Hillis	Gary Olson	

## Visitor & Facility Rental Comments

The Discovery Center was busy with many visitors and facility rental in 2011. Here are a few comments that we received over the past year:

*My name is Cora and my family visited you center today and I just wanted to send a not to say how AWESOME it is! We consider ourselves “interpretive center junkies” and your is one of the best we have ever been to. Come to think of it, I can’t think of one that tops it. So thank you thank you thank you for all the hard work you and your staff do! - Cora Reuter and family, Federal Way, WA*

*Great museum—excellent job to all. We especially enjoyed the raptor presentation. Your employee Linda presented “by far” the best raptor program we have seen. Excellent! Thank YOU!*

*Beautiful exhibits! Good gift shop. Loved the raptor experience. Roxie was a very good teacher, patient with kids and birds.*

*Beautifully appointed. Amazing history. Could of spent hours.—Bus trip from British Columbia*

*One of the best kid’s exhibits we have ever been to.*

*Staff went above and beyond, recommending vendors, hotels, taxi services, anything we requested. The staff, and especially Kristen made the whole night calm and worry free. We loved it! It was beautiful! We were so happy to find you guys!! - Johnson Wedding September 2011*

Photo taken on grounds overlooking pond... courtesy of kpinspire.blogspot.com



## 4th Annual Vintage Evening of Wine & Art

**Our annual fundraiser was a success, generated over \$28,000 in revenue for the Discovery Center. The donations from both the community and beyond topped the previous year and drew a crowd of energetic bidders. Our top oral auction items included a trip to Hawaii, overnight stays at various hotels, bed & breakfasts and wineries, lasik eye surgery and original art. We sincerely appreciate all the contributions which ensured the success of the annual event!**

### Business Members:

#### Business Benefactors

Baldwin Saloon  
Bicoastal Media  
Byers, Neumayer & Bradford, P.C.  
Crestline Construction  
Hattenhauer Distributing  
Hood River Distillers, Inc.  
Imperial Stock Ranch  
Les Schwab Tires  
Mid-Columbia Medical Center  
New York Life Ins., John Pereira  
Newport Layton Home Fashions  
Northern Wasco PUD  
PGE Biglow Canyon Wind Farm  
Wash-n-Shop

#### Business Sponsors

Bob Stone Freeway Auto  
Casa El Mirador  
Griffith Motors  
Hood River Inn

#### Business Patrons

Bank of the West  
Bolton Cellars  
Cathedral Ridge Winery  
Columbia River Hearing Aids  
Columbia River Properties  
Cousin's Restaurant, Inc.  
Dry Hollow Vineyards  
Erin Glenn at the Mint  
Full Sail Brewing Company  
Marshal's Winery  
Meadow Outdoor Advertising  
Morin Printing  
The Optimist Printers  
Oregon Equipment Co., Inc.  
Pheasant Valley Winery  
The Dalles Disposal Service  
The Pines 1852  
Twin View Orchard  
Wasco Title, Inc.

### Gifts:

Gifts in the amount of \$2875.00 were made In Memory Of...

John Dick, Roger Dick, Don Dunn, Jack Elwood, Marie Hall, Betty Mills, and Doris Watkins.

The Discovery Center would like to thank the following individuals:

Charlotte Adkisson  
Katherine Akers  
Anne Bialous  
Margaret Byrne  
Beatrice Dick  
Leon Dorich  
Dave Griffith  
Jean Hampton  
Jeanne Hillis  
Phil Kaser  
Vernon Kelly  
Mary Lonergan  
William Matthew  
Loye Ann May  
Dr. Robert Nixon  
Frank Noonan  
Ralph & Mary Poisel  
George Ronfeld  
Jeffery Schilling  
Gloria Schultens  
Milt Skov  
Kent Smith  
Carolyn Wood

### Board of Directors:

#### Wasco County Historical Museum Board

Robert Bailey  
William G. Dick, II  
Jan Leininger  
John Lundell  
Dan Spatz  
Sam Woolsey

#### Citizens for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Board

Art Carroll  
Doug Crow  
Jill Durow  
Dan Ericksen  
Doug Forncrook  
Dan Harkenrider  
Randy Hilderbrand  
Jerry Igo  
John Krussow  
John Langfeldt  
Evaline Patt  
Dana Schmidling  
Donna Seyhanli  
Brett Wilcox  
Carolyn Wood

#### Emeritus

William Hulse

## 2011 Donors:

### \$1000 plus

Charlotte Adkisson  
Bob & Barbara Bailey  
Art & Diana Carroll  
The Collins Foundation  
Columbia Gore Environmental Fund  
William & Nancy Dick  
Dan & Jill Durow  
Doug & Carol Forncrook  
Doug & Marylee Hattenhauer  
John & Harriet Landfeldt  
Jan Leininger  
Gloria Schultens  
Man & Donna Seyhanli  
Robert Staver  
The Dalles City Council  
Brett & Mary Wilcox  
Carolyn Wood

### \$500-\$999

Anne Bialous  
Mary Fax  
Dan & Beth Harkenrider  
Lorraine Johnson  
Prudence Muller  
John Periera  
Marvin & Donella Polehn  
Jane Streek  
Robert Watkins

### \$250-499

Larry & Delsie Gilpin  
Randy Hilderbrand  
Bill & Rosanna Hulse  
John Lundell  
David Neitling  
Kathleen Nichols  
Karen Sneed  
Bob & Catherine Stone  
Sam & Anne Marie Woolsey

### \$100-\$250

Marge Bronkey  
Thomas Cam  
Terry & Judy Cochran  
Columbia Gorge Community College  
Dennis Crawford  
Doug Crow  
Jim & Wendy Donnell  
Jocelyn Gay  
Dave Griffith  
Harold Haake  
Jean Hampton  
Fred Hinchell  
Jeanne Hillis  
Lewis Hodgkins  
Lynden Hollowell  
Lawrence Hughs

### \$100-\$250 con't

Howard Kinzey  
Paul Kollas  
Michael Kortge  
Leslie Labbe  
Marilyn McDaniel  
Grant Mead  
Sid Moody  
Mollie Newton  
Richard Rife  
Milt Skov  
Don Smith  
Ben Synon  
Trudy Tallman  
Jerry Tanquist  
John Thomas  
Mildred Vogan  
Bob Ullrich  
Rocky & Jana Webb

## VIP Event

In recognition of all of the donors listed above, we held our annual VIP Event in January 2012. After having to cancel the event on a Saturday night due to snow storms and power outages at the Discovery Center, we were thrilled they were able to attend the following evening. The menu consisted of fresh Dungeness Crab delivered from Astoria, OR., piping hot bread, pesto pasta salad, corn salad, and apple citrus salad. We also indulged them with desserts made by the Discovery Center staff.



Our donors feasting on crab at our Annual VIP Event in January 2012!

