

The MOR You Know

Museum of the Rockies Volunteer Newsletter

CALENDAR

- ❖ Friday, January 6th, 10:00-11:00, Docent Board Meeting, Board Room
- ❖ Monday, January 9th, 12:00-1:00pm, Volunteer Meeting, Classroom
- ❖ Tuesday, January 10th, 9:30-10:30am, Volunteer Board Meeting, Board Room
- ❖ Wednesday, January 18th, 5:30-7:30pm, 'Coronas with Jack Horner,' Club 320 Members Only
- ❖ Saturday, January 21- February 5th, 'Seasons' Exhibit by Russell Chatman open in Front Gallery
- ❖ Friday, January 27th, 7:00pm, Astronomy Winter Lecture Series Begins
- ❖ Tuesday, January 31st, 10:00am-12:00pm, Docent Enrichment Class, Classroom

Museum of the Rockies 406.994.6611, Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor
www.museumoftherockies.org

Angie Weikert: Pointing the Young in the Right Direction

If your child comes home excited about his trip to Yellowstone Park, when you know he hasn't left town all day, you can bet that Angie Weikert is behind it. Or if your baby starts communicating by sign language, even before he can talk, there again, it's probably Angie's doing.

She is the Museum of the Rockies amazing Early and Elementary Education Director, and her position is a natural for her. In her three-and-a-half years as a staff member she has made quite an impact on services for the young. Among her duties is managing the new "Explore Yellowstone Discovery Center," on the third level of the museum, which allows children to experience the park much the same as if they were there. A program she initiated in 2009 is "MOR Sign," which teaches sign language to children as young as six months. This program goes a long way toward reducing the frustrations in communicating often experienced by those too

young to talk. The class is for all children, not specifically for the deaf, although they do benefit.

"One of our MOR Sign participants actually taught Jack Horner to say "baby dinosaur" in sign language," Angie says.

Another program is "Sensational Babies," a program designed for newborns to two-year-olds which focuses on cognitive, physical and social development through sensory awareness activities. "Tours for Tots," for preschoolers, includes a kid-tour, a craft and a story. It's increasing popularity has demanded an extension of its classes from one class three times a month, to one class held three times every other week. The "Summer Camp" is another program gaining

more attention each year. Due to the growing number of participants and a waitlist the camp is doubling in size this year. One great community service supervised by Angie is "School's Out," featuring activities for kids on days when school is out, but their parents are at work. This program is taught by program partners, usually MOSS, but held at the museum. "Family Days" is also organized by Angie, with the exception of a few run by the other half of the education team, Nikki Dixon-Foley, Director of Secondary Education, Adult and Living History.

Angie's passion for teaching began in early childhood. She says that by the time she was six years old she was writing curriculum and teaching daily lessons in reading,



(Story con't on pg 2)

A young girl playing in MOR's Explore Yellowstone Discovery Center

(Story con't from pg 1)



James and Angie on top of Sacajawea Peak.

writing, math, science and art to her two-year-old sister. A native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, she carried that love of teaching through school and in 2005 earned a B.S. in Secondary Education, Earth Science and Biology, with a teaching certificate, from Northern Michigan University, in Marquette, Michigan. After student teaching in Quito, Ecuador, she came west to Montana’s mountains.

“I had no car,” she says, “so I hopped on an Amtrak train in Chicago, rode it to Havre, and convinced a friend to drive me to Bozeman. I had no prospects of a job, and the only possessions I brought were my bike, my whitewater kayak, a trunk of clothes, books and my backpack.”

She found an internship with Montana Outdoor Science School (MOSS), a nanny position to pay the bills, and settled into her new town. With her talents it’s no surprise that she quickly became a full-time employee of MOSS, and for three years taught in schools and summer camps, led field trips, designed new curriculum and worked behind the scenes in the many MOSS events.

She received her Masters of Science in Science Education through Montana State University in 2010 and focused her research for the degree on the effects of self-tours on school groups in MOR’s Dinosaurs Under the Big Sky exhibit.

While in college in Michigan she indulged in her other passion in life – the outdoors. She taught backpacking in New Mexico and whitewater canoeing and kayaking in the Midwest along with backpacking trips to Scotland and Ecuador.

“I’ve summited a 16,800 foot volcano in Ecuador,” she says, “and made it to 17,000 feet up one of the world’s highest active volcanoes, Ecuador’s Cotopaxi, before being forced to turn around due to bad weather and soft snow. “

She married James Weikert this past August in a ceremony with Bozeman mayor Jeff Krauss officiating. Her new husband works for an architecture firm in town.



Mayor Jeff Krauss officiating Angie and James’s marriage.

- Written by,

Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor

Educational Enrichment Class for Docents

January 31st, 10:00am-12:00pm, Classroom
Open to all MOR Staff and Volunteers



MOR’s own, Roger Barnes, Docent Board Member, has put together an exceptional Enrichment Class for Docents. MOR welcomes Mike Hunsaker, Curator of the Plenty Coups State Park in Pryor, Montana. Mike will present an educational lecture on Chief Plenty Coup, Crow Chief.

“Chief Plenty Coup earned his name from his many achievements on the battlefield but as the world he knew changed around him, he realized quickly that battle would not save his beloved people and traditions. So the great warrior became a great leader and negotiator fighting tirelessly for the rights of the Crow Nation. Given the honor of being the last traditional Chief of the Crow Tribe, Plenty Coups' final great deed was to offer his home and 190 acres of land to be used as a place of peace for all people, regardless of race and culture, but most importantly as a memorial to the Crow Nation.”

NOTES FROM THE TINSLEY HOUSE

Depending on the time and place, the term pumpkin can mean one of several things. For example, I am known to occasionally call my grandchildren by fruit or vegetable names that are intended to be endearments, with "Oh, my little Pumpkin" being one of my favorites. Calling someone a pumpkin in the mid 1800's meant that person was someone of importance in the community. But on the other side of the coin, at a later date, a pumpkin or pumpkin-roller was a person from the country, a farmer, possibly intended as a not-too-kind label.

Today Americans have a love affair with this wonderful orange globe, mostly as a decorative item. Many people have discovered it for the delicious, vitamin-rich vegetable that it is.

According to Jack Heaton in the Living History Farm garden guide, "pumpkins and squash originated in the Americas and were a staple food of tribes throughout the U.S. Early Spanish explorers took them to Europe." Early colonists as well as their Native American neighbors grew and used pumpkins extensively. "Pumpkins were peeled, seeded, and sliced then strung on heavy thread to dry where they remained through the winter. Colonial housewives boiled down the pumpkin and added butter, vinegar, and spice to make a dish which was similar in flavor to baked apples. They also mixed the pumpkin pulp with cornmeal to make bread, and the Indians were fond of a sort of stew they made from a combination of pumpkin, corn, peas, and beans." (from Victoria's Home

Companion or the Whole Art of Cooking: a History of 19th Century Foods, with Recipes, written by Victoria R. Rumble).

Many years ago I was introduced to sugar or pie pumpkins that were grown in the Heirloom garden at the Tinsley House. Up until then, like most people, I thought that pumpkin pie filling came out of a can. I was thrilled with the outcome of a pie, which I had made from scratch...cutting that pumpkin (saving those seeds to roast as another treat), baking the dark orange flesh, mashing it when it was cooked through, adding all the appropriate ingredients and baking it. Wow, was I proud of that pie! Since then, I have discovered all the many ways one can use pumpkin. Aside from all the great sweet treats, I use pumpkin cut into cubes, adding it to stews and soups.

Lately, I have tried my hand at drying it. I was surprised to see all those slices from the two pie pumpkins reduced to slightly more than two cups! Hydrated, it will make a lovely addition to the next pot of vegetable soup that I make. In the late Fall of each year, I purchase as many pumpkins as I anticipate using as they keep very well in a dry, cool place. But, whether it is baked, mashed, grated or spooned out of a can, it is an amazing nutritious food. Promise yourself a pumpkin treat in the very near future!

Well, until next time, Karen James, staff at the Living History Farm, Museum of the Rockies.



Volunteer Meeting with Betsy Kruk: Monday, January 9th, 12:00pm

Betsy Kruk is a senior in paleontology at Montana State University. She is also the Vice President of the MSU Horsemen's Club and is a part of the Montana State University's Equestrian Team. In her spare time she likes to read, crochet, hang out with friends, and play video games. She also is a part of Pink Gloves Boxing at the university gym. Her future plans consist of going to graduate school to obtain her master's and/or doctorate and one day become a professor of paleontology.

This talk will be an account of my trip to China during the summer of 2011. I will review the group's research that was conducted there, particularly my own, and combine that with various anecdotes of our experience with living in China. I will discuss the time spent in various cities in China as well as the time spent doing research both in the Zhejiang Museum of Natural History and out in the field. Hopefully this will be both entertaining and enlightening with regards to conducting research as well as spending time in China.

Astronomy Winter Lecture Series Begins: Enjoying the Aurora in Montana



The Aurora Borealis coloring the night sky above a winter cabin.

The Aurora Borealis is a colorful display of natural lights that can be seen frequently in the dark winter skies at high latitudes. Although people in the United States generally consider Montana to be a “northern” location, its location near 45 degrees latitude tells the true story that ours is really a mid-latitude location. Nevertheless, the aurora can be seen in Montana often enough to make it highly worthwhile to pay attention to the conditions and timing that lead to these beautiful displays. This presentation will review the physical causes of the aurora and demonstrate Internet sources of information that can help predict when an aurora might be visible in Montana. One of these tools is a recently developed online network of optical aurora detectors developed at Montana State University – Bozeman and installed around Montana. Beautiful photographs of the aurora will be included throughout the talk.

Friday, January 27, 7pm in the Hager Auditorium

Speaker: Dr. Joseph A. Shaw

Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering Affiliate Professor, Physics Director, Optical Technology Center,
Montana State University – Bozeman

MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

600 West Kagy Blvd
Bozeman, MT 59717
