

Museum TIMES

March/April 2016



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FUN & GAMES

ON THE

Western Slope:

Heritage Rendezvous
2016

March 4 - May 3

MUSEUM OF
The WEST

Bringing
the Heritage
of the
Western Slope
Together

Colorado Mesa
University
John U. Tomlinson
Library Special
Collections
& Archives
in Grand Junction

Western
Colorado Center
for the Arts
in
Grand
Junction

Rifle Heritage Center
in Rifle

Palisade
History Center
in Palisade

Museum of the West
in Grand Junction

Pioneer Town Museum
in Cedaredge

Mesa
County
Libraries
in Mesa
County

Education News

The Museums of Western Colorado, Mesa County Valley School District 51, and the Bureau of Land Management have teamed up to help students in the Grand Valley learn about the rich natural history of our area.



The restoration of Skully, our education *Allosaurus*, is complete! The cast had been glued and the holes repaired. It was given a base coat of black paint, the teeth were given a gloss coat to match the original fossil, and the skull bones detailed with a dry brush. It is now ready to have a cradle made and go into our education kit!

The Museum is collaborating with our partners to create a traveling educational kit that will be used in seventh grade classrooms across the Grand Valley. The kit, which will debut in March, will contain casts and original fossils from BLM-administered lands throughout the Grand Valley, providing students with a unique opportunity to interact with the natural heritage of the area. Included in the kit will be full-sized casts of the skulls of *Allosaurus* and *Camptosaurus*, as well as parts of *Coryphodon*, *Camarasaurus*, and *Ceratosaurus*.



Building the kit



The Museum is proud to help take a leading role in educating the students of Mesa County about the amazing prehistoric past that is on display at Dinosaur Journey and at various BLM sites across the region.

Please note: Educator is not included with the kit.

Through strong stewardship and relevant programming, the Museums of Western Colorado strives to inspire the community to preserve its heritage and tell its story.



Dinosaur Journey collects, preserves, interprets and displays evidence of the history of life and environments of western Colorado and geologically related surrounding areas.



The Loyd Files Research Library provides learning and research opportunities for exploring and interpreting western Colorado's past, present and future.

The Museum of the West is dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition and interpretation of artifacts that represent the rich heritage and history of western Colorado and the contiguous areas of the American West.

Cross Orchards Historic Site utilizes living history to preserve, interpret and educate the public on agriculture, transportation and the social history of the region.

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Subscribe to e-news and more at
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or on our website.

Museum Times is the bimonthly newsletter of the Museums of Western Colorado informing members and supporters of news, programs, and events.

Museum membership entitles you to free admission to all of our sites, as well as discounts for various programs. Check our website for updated membership fees.

 Find us on Facebook

Program News

Oral History Program Whitman Educational Center 248 S. Fourth St.

Thursday, March 17 • Noon

Justyn Liff, Public Affairs Specialist for the Western Colorado Area office of the Bureau of Reclamation, will discuss the hows and whys of the building of reservoirs on the Western Slope.

Thursday, April 21 • Noon

TBA

Oral History programs are held at the Whitman Educational Center, 248 S. Fourth St. They are jointly sponsored by the Museums of Western Colorado and the Mesa County Historical Society and are free to the public. The programs are held on the third Thursday of the month at noon.

Behind the Scenes Operations Tour

Thursday, March 31 • 5:30 pm

Museum of the West

462 Ute Ave.

\$5 per person

No preregistration required

Architectural & Historic Grand Junction Walking Tour

Thursday, April 21 • 5:30 pm

Meet at Museum of the West

462 Ute Ave.

\$5 per person

No preregistration required

Calendar

MARCH	4		Heritage Rendezvous Exhibit Opens • Museum of the West
	11	9:30 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting • Cross Orchards Historic Site
	17	10 am	Cross Orchards Volunteer Meeting • Cross Orchards Historic Site
	17	Noon	Oral History Program • Whitman Educational Center
	25		Early Trails and Wagon Roads Trip
	25	9:30 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting • Cross Orchards Historic Site
	27		Easter Sunday
	31	5:30 pm	Behind the Scenes Operations Tour • Museum of the West
APRIL	8	9:30 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting • Cross Orchards Historic Site
	8 & 9		Grand Junction Native American Arts Auction & Appraisal Clinic • Grand Vista Hotel
	11 - 13		Curator's Tour of Denver's Great Museums Trip
	15		Geology of Colorado National Monument Trip
	18 - 23		Ancients, Caverns, and Outlaws Trip
	21	10 am	Cross Orchards Volunteer Meeting • Cross Orchards Historic Site
	21	Noon	Oral History Program • Whitman Educational Center
	21	5:30 pm	GJ Walking Tour • Meet at Museum of the West
	22	9:30 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting • Cross Orchards Historic Site
	29		Dominguez Canyon Hike

Please note: Dates and times of events, meetings, and programs are subject to change; please call to confirm.

Passport to Adventure

Early Trails and Wagon Roads Trip

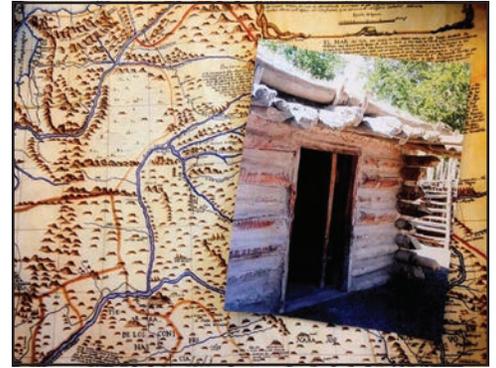
March 25

Register by March 11

Led by David Bailey

Curator of History David Bailey will travel along the northern branch of the Spanish Trail and the subsequent Salt Lake Wagon Road telling the history and mystery of these pathways. We will then head to Fort Uncompahgre in Delta, Colorado. The fort is a re-creation of the original fur trading post established by Antoine Robidoux in 1826. The costumed interpreters will give an interactive tour of life during the Mountain Man era. Our next stop will be the Museum of the Mountain West in Montrose for a guided tour of settlement era town buildings that tell the story of early western Colorado.

\$75/Museum member; \$85/Non-member - includes transportation, admission, and box lunch



Curator's Tour of Denver's Great Museums

April 11 - 13

Register by March 11

Led by Erin Schmitz

Travel with Curator of Collections and Archives, Erin Schmitz, and explore the museums of the Front Range. Erin has worked at several of these museums and can deliver that special experience only a curator can. Our journey will include Lakewood Heritage Center and its historic buildings in Belmar Park, the little known Geology Museum at the School of Mines in Golden, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science with its special exhibit, "Chocolate: The Exhibition." Our visit there will be capped off with a behind the scenes tour with Rene O'Connell, Image Archivist, of the new state of the art Avenir Collections Center.

\$440/Museum member; \$470/Non-member - includes transportation, lodging, and admission

\$90 - reservation deposit; **\$75** - single supplement



Photo courtesy of Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Geology of Colorado National Monument

April 15

Register by April 1

Led by Julia McHugh, Ph.D.

This trip will showcase the geology and history of Colorado National Monument. Join us for a guided tour of Rimrock Drive, as well as a geologist-led hike along Canyon Rim Trail. We'll see monoclines, windows and monoliths, the Redlands Fault, and even the Great Unconformity – a line in the rocks where over a billion years of Earth's history is missing.

\$70/Museum member; \$80/Non-member - includes transportation, sack lunch, and admission



Photo courtesy of McHugh Photography

Dinosaur Diamond

May 16 - 18

Register by April 11

Led by Julia McHugh, Ph.D.

Fruita has long been a destination on the Dinosaur Diamond. This year, tour the rest of the diamond with a real paleontologist! We'll check out dinosaurs, prehistoric creatures, rock art, museums, track sites, and more on this three day road trip. Be sure to bring your camera for this classic dinosaur excursion! Many stops will be roadside or in a museum setting; however, some hiking to other stops will be required. Hikes range in difficulty from easy to moderately strenuous and are normally a mile or less in length. Minimum age: 8

\$450/Museum member; \$475/Non-member - includes transportation, lodging, admissions, and guide



Photo courtesy of McHugh Photography

Passport to Adventure

Canyonlands by Night

May 28

Register by May 13

Led by David Bailey

The group will travel to the Canyonlands by Night facility in Moab, Utah. Participants will collect their boarding passes and visit their wonderful gift store. We will have an old fashioned Dutch oven barbeque dinner at the edge of the Colorado River before boarding our riverboat. Participants will have a relaxing sunset cruise up the river and at dusk enjoy a unique history tour accompanied by a fantastic light show.

\$170/Museum member; \$185/Non-member - includes transportation, dinner, show, and boat ride



Treasures of Colorado's San Juan River Country

June 19 - June 21

Register by May 6

Led by Andrew Gulliford, Ph.D.

Discover some of the treasures that can be found in southern Colorado's San Juan River Country. This includes the historic mining towns of Durango and Silverton, Center of Southwest Studies, and the memorable Durango & Silverton Railroad, all of which we will experience with Colorado historian Dr. Andrew Gulliford. We will also visit the impressive Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum and experience a unique full-moon tour at Chimney Rock National Monument, an archaeo-astronomical site attributed to the Ancestral Pueblo.

\$675/Museum member; \$750/Non-member - includes transportation, lodging, admission, railroad tickets, and tours
\$140 - reservation deposit; **\$125** - single supplement



Photo courtesy of Howard Rowe

Planning further ahead...

Crystal River Heritage / West Elk Fall Foliage

September 12 - 13

Register by August 12

Led by Peter Booth

The aspen grove in the West Elk Mountains is considered the largest living organism in the world, with the trees all sharing a common root system. This results in an amazing display of fall colors. This journey will also experience the heritage and beauty of the Crystal River valley with stops in Redstone and Marble. We will enjoy an evening in historic downtown Crested Butte.

\$225/Museum member; \$265/Non-member - includes transportation and lodging

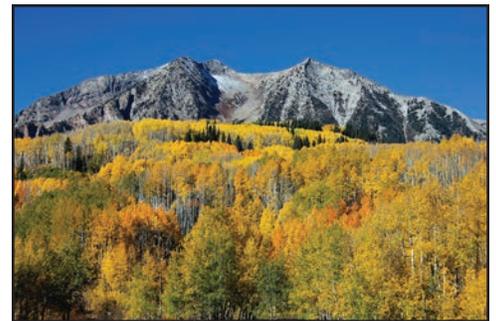


Photo courtesy of © shaunmccullough

Oregon or Bust: Directors' Choice Tour

September 25 - 30

Register by June 1

Led by Mike Perry and Peter Booth

Westward Ho!! Pioneers on the Oregon Trail traveled thousands of miles to reach this bountiful land. Come with the Museum as we explore the beauty and heritage of Oregon. We will stay all five nights in Portland, one of America's most exciting cities; home of some wonderful museums such as the Oregon Historical Society and Portland Art Museum. Traveling out from Portland, we will experience the dramatic Oregon Coast, the enchanting Columbia Gorge, and the fertile Willamette Valley. Join Mike and Peter on a journey to some of their favorite places in Oregon where they lived and worked.

\$2200/Museum member; \$2275/Non-member - includes airfare, transportation, admission, and lodging
\$440 - reservation deposit; **\$500** - single supplement



Photo courtesy of Cacophony

MWC's New Strategic Plan Moving Forward into the Next 50 Years: "Creating that place visitors bring their guest to — First."

With a great sense of pride, I would like to announce that this past month, the Board passed a new Strategic Plan and Vision for the MWC — "Moving Forward."

One fact the Strategic Plan recognizes from the outset is that, for half a century, the MWC has been a strong and valued institution, successfully fulfilling its mission and living up to the ideals set forth by the community it serves. To those who have supported the Museums as dedicated members, donors, volunteers, board, and staff leaders – to you! – I say a most sincere thank you.

The Board of Directors and I now appeal to these same friends of MWC to propel the institution forward through its next 50 years. "Moving Forward" is the MWC's Strategic Plan for 2016 and beyond. "Moving Forward" is far more than a document; it is an ongoing process of discussion and decision making, largely driven by the environmental realities of cultural institutions in 21st Century America. The MWC has engaged its leadership and the broader community to examine both the challenges and opportunities that lie in the future, and the need for change. We have assessed the MWC's programming and the organization's current and projected assets and resources. The process is thoughtful and intentional, and requires making hard decisions regarding issues such as facilities and their optimal geographic location, programmatic expansion and operational consolidation, fiscal sustainability, and, of course, responsiveness to community desires and demands.

Ultimately, "Moving Forward" is a process to ensure that the future includes a MWC that is thriving and serving its community well.

This plan document provides a road map to guide the MWC in putting into action its new Mission and Vision, its Promises to the Community, and its programmatic and administrative Goals and Objectives. "Moving Forward" brings forth one of the MWC's most important promises: *To be the major Western Slope heritage institution that encourages younger generations to learn about our past.*

Everyone who participated in the Planning Process did a great job and I really appreciate your dedication and hard work. True, the future is a bit daunting, but it is also very exciting. I am sure that in working together, the MWC will come out a true leader in Western Colorado heritage (pre-historic and historic).

Peter MacMillan Booth, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Museums of Western Colorado

Welcome to the 'New' Newsletter!

In order to provide you with a better, more informative product, we have decided to change from a monthly format to sending the newsletter out every other month. The current issue, for March/April, is our pilot project.

We are working hard to fulfill the Museums' mission of sharing what is being discovered and preserved at our physical facilities. This change in timing will give our curators, collections and education staff, and volunteers more time to produce informative content, providing you with a more interesting read. It will also give more lead time on events and other time sensitive materials.

We will continue to make changes going forward to ensure that our newsletter is as effective as possible at connecting us to you, our community and our mission!

New MWC Tagline: Discovering – Preserving – Sharing

We want to introduce to our friends and supporters the MWC's new tagline:
“Discovering - Preserving - Sharing”

The development of this tagline is part of the strategic plan and it is time to start moving forward. It is our goal that a tagline will help communicate the MWC's mission to the public. In just a few words, people will get a better understanding of who we are and what we offer.

The intention is that the tagline captures the idea that the MWC is more than a “dusty” building with old things, but that our Museums are actively seeking out new knowledge, actively saving our heritage, and actively communicating that to visitors and the community. That is something we have always been proud of here at the MWC — we are more than a museum, we are an active research institution that is taking our mission outside the walls of the Museums.

96%

While creating a new Strategic Plan, the MWC commissioned a survey of the opinions of Mesa County voters. A professional polling company conducted the survey and received sufficient responses to generate some very reliable and significant results.

We discovered that local residents hold the Museums in very high esteem. A series of questions asked if the respondent felt the MWC did a good job in areas including heritage preservation, education, culture, and economic development. The responses were tremendously affirming and I am pleased to share some of the data with you.

- **Economic Growth:** Nationwide, many people don't initially think of museums as part the economy, so I was very pleased that 60% of respondents agreed that the MWC brought “Economic Growth” while 33% were either unsure or did not know.
- **Culture:** Regarding “Culture,” 85% agreed that the museum was very important in this category. Only 2% did not think the MWC contributed to culture.
- **Education:** 89% felt the museum was an educational asset to the community and no respondents disagreed with this statement.
- **Heritage:** Finally, an overwhelming 96% of respondents answered yes to the question “Does the MWC preserve and document the history and heritage of Western Colorado?” The remaining 4% did not mark that they disagreed, but that they were unsure or did not know.

This is incredible. It is a wonderful testament to the great jobs volunteers, staff, and board members have done in the past and what we are continuing to do today. It also a tremendous sign of support for the MWC and what it does for the community.

Revitalization Begins on the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway

The Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway is one of the few scenic byways in America to span two states – Utah and Colorado. The byway connects Price, Vernal and Moab, Utah with Fruita, Colorado and travels through some of the most beautiful country in the region. First designated as a state scenic byway in Colorado in 1997, the Utah segment (also known as the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway) was designated in 1998. The entire route (both segments) was approved as a National Scenic Byway in 2002. The Dinosaur Diamond preserves and educates the public on the cultural, historic and paleontological resources found along the route. These resources include rock art, dinosaur quarries, track sites, museums, parks, and monuments.

Over the last ten years the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway has continued to drive tourists to discover our cultural and paleontological past; however, a hiatus in a central, organizing structure has resulted in a general lack of upkeep in several areas. The time has come to move the Dinosaur Diamond off of the back burner and restore it to its former glory.

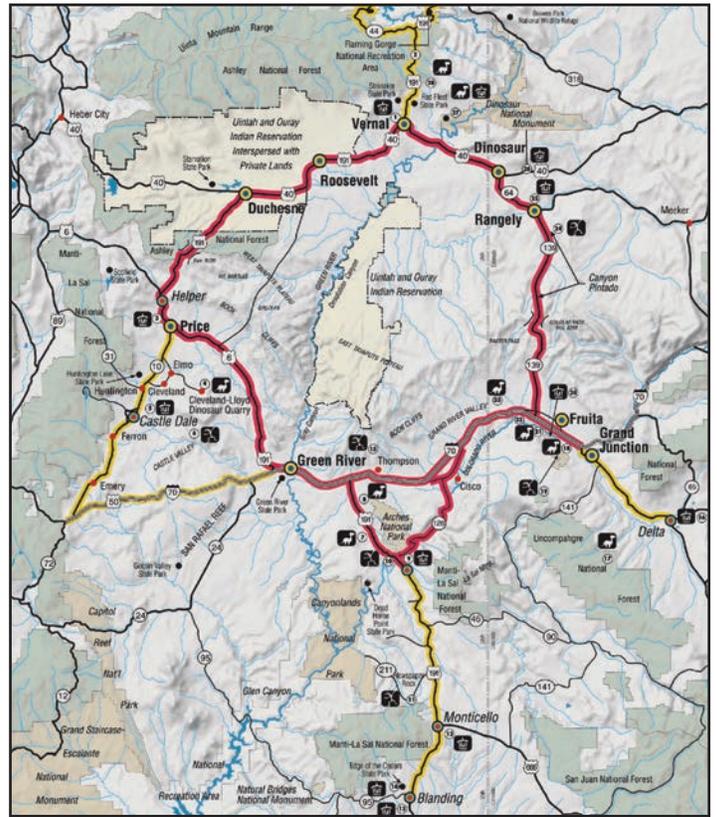
Last December, the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway was assessed for its wayfinding utility by the Colorado DOT.

During the assessment, teams of community members, city officials, employees from CDOT and tourism offices drove the Diamond to evaluate sites, signage, materials, and knowledge of community members. The results of these adventures were shared during an exit interview for the assessment held at Dinosaur Journey.

The next morning we held a strategic planning session at Dinosaur Journey to discuss the future of the byway. It was during that strategic plan that we unanimously decided to begin a revitalization of the byway, beginning with reinstating a six person organizing board. Members of the board (who will be voted upon at the upcoming first quarterly meeting) include Nancy Bramer (Northwest Colorado Cultural Heritage Program), Shalee Johansen (Carbon County Office of Tourism), Greg Gnesios (Former Dinosaur Diamond Director), Kelli Hepler (Delta County Tourism), Michael Leschin (Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office), and Julia McHugh (Museums of Western Colorado).

The new organizing board has been meeting monthly, via conference calls, to identify core needs, or strategic areas, to focus upon in order to revitalize the byway. These areas include:

- **Sustainability of Operations and Governance**
 - Potential reinstatement of Dues
 - Revision of Mission & Vision Statements
- **Connectivity in Communities and Partners**
 - Reaching out to partners
 - Holding regular workshops & meetings
- **Marketing and Advertising**
 - Re-inventing the website
 - Reaching out to tourism groups



- **Generation of New Promotional Materials**
 - Potential development of a Dinosaur Diamond mobile app
 - New brochures/rack cards
- **Enhancement and Development of Interpretive Content and Accessibility**
 - Replacing worn signage
 - Additional and enlarged turnouts

The first quarterly meeting was held near Moab, UT on Monday, March 7th. The new dinosaur tracks museum, Moab Giants Dinosaurs Paleosafari, generously donated the use of their facility to host the meeting. At this meeting we discussed the status and structure of the byway organization, strategic areas for focus, as well as the needs and concerns among community partners. Additionally, we voted on the members of a new governing Board of Trustees as well as officers of that board. There was also a unanimous vote of commitment among the present community stakeholders for the revitalization of the byway. We got a lot done and have kick started our way to a Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway revival.

The Museums of Western Colorado is proud to be involved in restoring this priceless treasure back to its former glory. We hope you get a chance to travel the diamond this year and watch our progress.

Dinosaur Journey News

Dinosaur Journey Gets a Spring Cleaning

It's that time of year again, time to sweep out exhibits and scrub down the dinosaurs – it's the I ♥ Dinos Spring Cleaning Event at Dinosaur Journey. On Monday, February 22nd, twenty museum staff, volunteers, interns, and board members rolled up their sleeves and helped clean the Dinosaur Journey exhibit hall. We are very grateful to have such a strong showing at the clean up; it's a big museum and we certainly could not have done it without everyone. Clean up began slowly at 8 am, but hit full steam by 10.



The fleshed out dinosaurs and robots were washed and scrubbed with rags/brushes in a gentle cleaning solution. It sometimes took two or three people to get the larger dinos, like *Utahraptor* and *Dilophosaurus*, cleaned up. Some of the crew were amazed to watch our large dinosaurs change colors as the dust and grime of daily use and an active fossil prep lab (which generates a lot of dust!) was removed. The skulls and skeletons on display are very fragile, and were given a light dusting with feather dusters – they changed color, too, during cleaning from beige grey to a black grey. Even the glass eyes of our robots and reconstructions were hand polished with cleaner before the end of the day.

Cleaning the plants in the exhibits took a major effort with 4-5 people working diligently to keep each group of plants coordinated with its exhibit. You may wonder “what is the difference?” But the plants in the Cretaceous Period and in the Jurassic were different types, and, to keep our exhibits both beautiful and accurate, it takes a careful plan – even when cleaning. The plants were taken into the prep lab and washed in the

sink to remove a layer of dust. The larger trees were hand wiped with wet rags.

It took three shop vacuums, with loooooong extensions to reach all of the dust bunnies in high places, both in the exhibit hall and in the prep lab. You would think Dinosaur Journey would at least have dust dinos, right? Nope. But don't worry. We evicted the bunnies.

All in all, it took the twenty of us about five and a half hours to finish the job, but it was well worth the effort. The exhibit hall looks amazing and we hope you will have a chance to come in and see it. It's not every day we brush the dinosaurs' teeth! Come see them smile!

Grand Junction Native American Arts Auction & Appraisal Clinic

by the R.B. Burnham & Co. Trading Post

Rugs, Pottery Baskets, Katsina Dolls, Jewelry, Art, and More

April 8-9, 2016

Grand Vista Hotel

2790 Crossroads Blvd. Grand Junction

April 8

6:00 pm Reception with refreshments - Free
6:30 pm Presentation by fourth generation
Navajo Trader Bruce Burnham - Free
7:00 pm Appraisal Clinic - \$10 per item
for informal verbal evaluation
Reservation required.

April 9

10 am - Noon Auction Preview
1 pm till done Auction

**No Entry Fee to the Auction, No Bidder Fee, 10% Buyers premium
Other Native American artist vendors will be available.**

Reservations for clinic: jmccollough@westcomuseum.org



Heritage Awards Recap

The Museums of Western Colorado celebrated the annual Heritage Awards Tuesday, March 1st at Dinosaur Journey. These awards are an opportunity for the Museum to thank organizations and members of the community that have contributed to the understanding and preservation of Mesa County and Western Slope heritage. Some of the honorees have contributed directly to the Museum ability to fulfill its mission of discovering, preserving, and sharing Mesa County history; others are honored for their outstanding work on their own or for other organizations. This year's awards and winners are listed below.

- **Historian Award**: Recognizes contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of Mesa County and Western Slope history. **This year's honoree was Robert Silbernagel.**
- **George Callison Paleontological Award**: recognizes contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of Mesa County and Western Slope paleontological heritage. **This year we honored Dr. Martin Lockley.**
- **Heritage Enterprise Award**: recognizes a business enterprise that has contributed to the preservation of Mesa County's heritage. **We were happy to recognize Family Health West.**
- **Museum Service Award**: recognizes the efforts of an individual, group, or organization in support of the MWC's mission and vision. **We had two awardees this year: Emma McCreanor of the Mesa County Historical Society and Anamae Richmond, a long time Cross Orchards Historic Site volunteer.**
- **Preservation Award**: recognizes efforts toward the preservation of Mesa County's architectural treasures. **This year we were happy to award Chamberlin Architects.**
- **Archaeology Award**: recognizes contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of Mesa County and Western Slope Archaeology. **This year's honoree was John Lindstrom.**
- We also introduced a new award this year: the **Director's Choice Award** honors individuals who have, over a lifetime, demonstrated meritorious service and dedication to the Museum and its mission. **This year, we wished to honor Herb Bacon.**

The Heritage Awards also gave us the opportunity to officially premier the new video, *Dinosaurs of the Grand Valley*. The film was created by Gen9 Productions, made possible by a generous donation from Charles Safris, and features a number of paleontologists who work in the region. Dinosaur Journey can now provide visitors with a regionally specific introduction to the paleontology of the Grand Valley.

Thanks to the continued support and interest of community members, businesses, donors, volunteers, and others the heritage of the Grand Valley is being discovered, preserved and shared in new ways, by new voices. The Museums of Western Colorado are very excited to be able to participate in and honor this work.

Left to right: John Lindstrom, Emma McCreanor, Dr. Martin Lockley, Anamae Richmond, Lori Randall of Family Health West, Bob Silbernagel, Ed Chamberlin and Werner Duecker of Chamberlin Architects



