

Museum TIMES

April 2014



Just when you thought it was safe to go back in after **SUPERCROCS...**

usbank BRINGS YOU

SEA MONSTERS OF THE GRAND VALLEY



APRIL 18 – SEPTEMBER 7

DINOSAUR JOURNEY MUSEUM



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Cross Orchards Historic Site Opens on May 1st

Spring has sprung and plans are underway for a great 2014 season at our Cross Orchards Historic Site. We're scheduled to open the gates on May 1st; however, we wanted to whet your appetites for what we have in store!!!!

May 3
Spring Day on the Farm

June 7
Heritage Day

June 9 – 13
Kid's Camp

June 23 – 27
Kid's Camp

July 7 – 11
Kid's Camp

July 21 – 25
Kid's Camp

September 19 and 20
Two Rivers Chautauqua

October 18
Fall Day on the Farm

Volunteer Spotlight

Bob Whitehorne joined our cadre of volunteers in the Paleo lab at Dinosaur Journey several months ago. Judging by the smile on his face he's definitely enjoying the challenges and tribulations of his volunteer service!



Bob was born in Bradford, Virginia and was raised in Chappaqua, New York. Following his graduation from high school he headed west to attend Denver University. He graduated with a degree in Psychology; however, his career was spent in Information Technology for large corporate systems and software development in the Denver area.

The Grand Valley had caught their eye as a great place to retire so Bob and his wife Carolyn moved to the area about 6 1/2 years ago. In their spare time Bob and his wife love to travel. Favorite foreign destinations include Africa, New Zealand and Australia, and they've had wonderful road trips right here in Colorado and the United States.

Bob enjoys the scientific side of working in the lab as well as the camaraderie with his fellow volunteers. Thanks so much for becoming a volunteer and joining our Museum of Western Colorado family!

Corporate Spotlight



This month we're tipping our hat to Brenda McCallister. If you've been to Dinosaur Journey you've noticed lots of "hands on" activities. One of the favorites is the "Build a Dinosaur" box that enables kids of all ages to take puzzle pieces and create dinosaurs. The pieces get quite a workout and, in fact, need to be replaced periodically. Brenda has been very gracious over the last five years by cutting them out and keeping this

wonderful mind-challenging activity up and running.

Brenda - thanks for supporting the Museum of Western Colorado and helping us inspire the creativity of our visitors!

The Museum of Western Colorado inspires people to experience and value our region through the collection and preservation of historical and fossil resources. We engage our audience through exhibitions, educational programming, research and publications.



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.

Museum of Western Colorado
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Subscribe to e-news and more at
newsletter@westcomuseum.org
or on our website.

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

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

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.



Heritage Awards

Congratulations To Our 2014 Heritage Award Winners

The Museum of Western Colorado's mission is to help our community preserve our heritage and tell our story. There are many people in the community who assist us with this very important job. In January we put out the call for nominations to help us identify people and organizations that have contributed significantly to preserving and protecting our local heritage. The response we received was incredible and we are very thankful to the many people who came forth with nominations for our **2014 Heritage Awards**.

At the Museum of Western Colorado's Annual Meeting the following people/organizations were honored for incredible contributions:

Historian Award - This award recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions by an individual, group or organization to the public understanding and appreciation of Mesa County and Western Slope history.

David Sundal
Debbie Brockett
Garry Brewer

George Callison Paleontological Award - This award recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions by an individual, group or organization to the public understanding and appreciation of Mesa County and Western Slope Paleontological heritage.

Charles Safris

Heritage Enterprise Award - This award recognizes a business enterprise that has made distinguished and significant long-term contributions to the preservation of Mesa County's heritage.

The Bacon Family Foundation
Grand Junction Subaru

Museum Service Award - This award recognizes meritorious efforts by an individual, group or organization in support of the Museum of Western Colorado's mission and vision.

Legends of the Grand Valley
Western Colorado Chapter Territorial Daughters of Colorado
Marie Tipping

Preservation Award - This award recognizes distinguished and long-term efforts of an individual, group or organization to the preservation of Mesa County's architectural treasures.

Gateway Canyons Resort
Kristen Ashbeck
Tim Gasperini

Our congratulations and thanks go to these special individuals and organizations that contribute so much to our quality of life in the Grand Valley!

From Our Collections



Train aficionados and the general public enjoy the lineup of the Uintah Railway cars at our Cross Orchards Historic Site. Most of the wheels under each car actually come from Denver and Rio Grande Western (D&RGW) rolling stock. When the Uintah Railway was scrapped in 1939 many of the car bodies were saved and used by Grand Valley farmers as storage buildings; however the metal underneath the car - brake system components, side frames, bolsters, wheels, axles, springs, truss rods, etc. - were removed from the cars and sent to steel mills for recycling.

The components underneath the Uintah Railway were very hard to come by and are nearly impossible to find these days. The wheels and axle pictured at left are extremely rare, with only a few other original Uintah Railway wheel sets in existence.

Close inspection of these wheels reveals FCS Griffin Denver embossed on the outside of one wheel that was founded in 1877 by Thomas Griffin. On the inside of one wheel one can find U RY CO which stands for Uintah Railway Company. This wheel set came from the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California.

The Rio Grande Chapter of the local National Railway Historical Society Chapter purchased the wheel set and drove to Perris several years ago to haul the wheel set back to the Grand Valley. How the Orange Empire Railway Museum came to possess this wheel set is unknown; however it is speculated that it may have come from Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, California as the amusement park acquired other Colorado narrow gauge railroad equipment many years ago.



Need Gift Ideas???

Need a unique gift idea for that special anniversary or for the birthday of that hard-to-buy-for person in your life? Consider sponsoring our Sea Monster exhibit at Dinosaur Journey in the name of your loved one. For only \$100, a plaque commemorating the occasion and the name of your loved one will be placed at the exhibit site from April-September and it will be yours at the completion of the year for special keeping. For more information please call Kristi Pollard at 970-270-5594.

Who Visits the Museum of Western Colorado: Out-of-Mesa County Visitors

Last summer, working with the School of Business at Colorado Mesa University, we conducted a survey of those coming to each of our Museum of Western Colorado (MWC) sites. The study was sponsored in part by the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau. The survey looked both at visitors from outside as well as inside Mesa County. This month I thought we might share some of the results for those coming from outside our community.

To start with, most of those who visited the MWC are married women who brought children or grandchildren. This fits with a national trend that moms and grandmas favor attractions that have a family atmosphere. The average age is 46, have a family income of over \$51,000 annually (with 46% making over \$76,000) and over 75% have a college degree or higher.

There is a difference between why women came to the museum as opposed to men. A very high 49% of men who visited us were "Traveling Through Mesa County" as opposed to 25% who were "Visiting Friends and Family." This is compared to women who were more inclined to come to a MWC site with friends and family (40%) and only 35% were passing through. Overall, though, the two categories were pretty even with 39.3% stopping while traveling and were 36.6% specifically in the

Grand Valley visiting friends and family. Normally, for museums nationwide, "Friends and Family" is usually way ahead of other reasons. This shows that we are successfully pulling at least some people off the Interstate.

Another question on the survey was "Where did you hear about this museum?". The highest percentage (39.7%) heard about us from friends and family. This is typically the number one source of information nationwide (though the percentage is usually higher). For Dinosaur Journey, the next highest group of visitors (22.6%) learned about that museum from road signage. Meanwhile, the second highest number for Museum of the West (26%) learned about our downtown facility from the internet. The internet has been increasing in importance over the recent years.

Of the three museums, Cross Orchards Historic Site did the best job of drawing people specifically because of the subject matter. Just over 20% of the people came to Cross Orchards because of a "Special Interest" as compared to 13.3% for Dinosaur Journey and 6% for Museum of the West. This reinforces the fact that Agricultural Tourism is very important. Another interesting related fact is that while the exhibits were the most popular part of Dinosaur Journey and Museum of the West, "volunteers/staff" was the most popular aspect of Cross Orchards.

According to the survey, the highest percentage of out-of-town visitors came from California (18.2%). This was almost double those coming from Denver (9.4%). The Midwest states come in second with 11.7% while Northwest states, Southern states and Texas all tied with just over 5% as the place of origin.

While here in Mesa County, the other attractions they visited included (in descending order) Colorado National Monument, Downtown Grand Junction, Grand Mesa, Orchards and Vineyards and other museums. While the Monument was number one for Museum of the West and Dinosaur Journey, Cross Orchards differed a little in this area in that 51% of those visited the historic site also went to a local "Vineyard or Orchard."

The survey found that 54% of all out-of-town guests that spent the night stay in a hotel, bed and breakfast or camped. This is very high for museums with visitors normally staying with "Friends and Family." The survey found that while they were in Mesa County, they spent an average of \$538. That is a significant impact to our economy.

Next month, we will take a look at the typical Mesa County Resident who visits a MWC site.

Passport to Adventure Trips and Tours 2014 - Brought to you by Chevron

We have two spectacular international adventure opportunities for you this year!
We've done all the planning - you just relax and have the time of your life!



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WILD AND ANCIENT AFRICA: KENYA AND RWANDA

August 1 – 15

Register by April 15

Kenya: The name evokes beauty, adventure and history. You'll experience wildlife safaris where your luxury camps will be a base for finding zebra, giraffe, elephant, long-necked gerenuk antelope, oryx, all types of cats and primates, crocodiles, exotic birds, white rhino, hippo and much more. In Nairobi we will visit an elephant orphanage, the National Museum - home to ancient fossils - and a section of the Karen Blixen farm.

Rwanda: The utter highlight of this segment will be connecting with rare Mountain Gorillas in their native habitat of Volcanoes National Park. We'll also spend time with the rare Golden Monkey. On the shores of Lake Jivu

we will stay in the village of Gisenvi and absorb the lifestyle of this a tribal fishing village. In Kigali we'll see the Genocide Memorial Center, craft markets and more.

The Rwanda segment is optional and cannot be reserved as a stand-alone trip.

Led by Mike Perry and Cary Baird

Kenya only: \$6800; Complete tour price: \$9350 - All inclusive!

Deposit: \$800 by April 15 • Full payment deadline: May 15 *Spaces are not guaranteed until deposit is made.*



NORMANDY AND FRANCE

November 12 – 22

Register by June 1

Join us during the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landing in France as we tour the City of Lights and the beaches of Normandy. Several days will be spent in Paris with guided city tours as well as opportunities to explore on your own before heading to the northern coast. La Roche-Guyon, Caen, Bayeux and Le Mont St. Michael will be visited as will the landing beaches of Utah and Omaha and the famous Pointe Du Hoc.

Led by Zebulon Miracle

\$5,450 – includes airfare, lodging, transportation, admissions, most meals and trip insurance

\$1,100 – deposit required to reserve space



FORT UNCOMPAGHRE AND THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL

April 10

Register by April 3

Over half a century before the founding of western Colorado towns such as Delta, Montrose and Grand Junction, a small trading post was established near the confluence of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison rivers. Antoine Robidoux's Fort Uncompahgre served as an isolated trading post until 1844. Today the Fort Uncompahgre Living History Museum serves as a reminder of the rugged Mountain Man period in Colorado history. Just as the trading post left, the Old Spanish Trail exploded in use. We will visit the fort as well as portions along the trail to discover what early 19th century Colorado was like. Led by Zebulon Miracle

\$65 Museum member/\$70 Non-member - includes transportation and admission

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THE LEMON SQUEEZER: INTRODUCTION TO CANYONEERING

May 10

Register by May 3

Sure, you've hiked on most of the trails in the Colorado National Monument or the surrounding slickrock country. But did you know that even more adventure is just off the beaten path that brings you much closer to the geology and natural history of the canyons? Canyoneering is a thrilling way to take you beyond hiking and into the world of scrambling and rappelling. True adventure awaits in the Colorado National Monument on the Lemon Squeezer route. The half day adventure will include instruction and guidance from Kris Hjelle and Colorado Alpine and Desert Adventures.

Led by Zebulon Miracle and Kris Hjelle

\$70/Museum member; \$75/Non-member - includes all gear and guide services



BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NORTH RIM HIKE

May 17

Register by May 10

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is one of western Colorado's least crowded gems, and the North Rim is rarely explored. Come along for a hike to Exclamation Point (and it really did earn the name!) and have an incredible day of geology, wildlife and spectacular scenery. Led by Zebulon Miracle

\$55/Museum member; \$60/Non-member - includes transportation and park admission



GREAT TRAILS OF THE WEST: SANTA FE TRAIL

May 18 - 23

Register by April 18

In 1821, William Bucknell blazed a route that became the entry for the United States into what became the American Southwest. The Santa Fe Trail from western Missouri to northern New Mexico brought two rich cultures together, creating a vibrant history that can still be seen today. Join us as we follow the path of the caravans as it winds from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Along the way, we will experience the prairie solitude and mountain grandeur of what is one of the most famous of the Great Trails of the West. Led by Peter Booth, Ph.D.

\$850/Museum member; \$900/Non-member - includes transportation, lodging and admission; **\$170** - deposit required to reserve space



COLORADO ENERGY

June 23 - 26

Register by May 23

When you think of Colorado's valuable mineral resources the first things that usually come to mind are gold and silver. But energy, and many forms of it, is a huge part of the Colorado economy. Join the Museum of Western Colorado and John McConnell Math and Science Center on a tour of all the different forms of energy the Centennial State produces. Coal, wind, solar, biomass, natural gas and oil shale facilities will all be explored as will the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Denver.

Led by Zebulon Miracle and Teresa Coons, Ph.D.

\$420/Museum member; \$470/Non-member - includes transportation, lodging and admissions; **\$85** - deposit required to reserve space

Program News

The Museum of Western Colorado and
John McConnell Math and Science Center present

Changing Landscapes of Science

GEOLOGY OF THE COLORADO PLATEAU

Western Colorado's Oil Shale Boom and Black Sunday

Presented by Bob Silbernagel

Editorial Page Editor, Business Writer, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

Thursday, April 10 • 7 pm

Whitman Educational Center • 4th and Ute, Grand Junction

**\$5/person for Museum or Math and Science members and students;
\$10/person for non-members**

Oral History Program Thursday, April 17 • Noon Whitman Educational Center 248 S. Fourth St.

Bruce Hill will bring us up to date on the restoration of George Crawford's monument and tomb.

Oral History programs are held at the Whitman Educational Center, 248 S. Fourth St. These programs are jointly sponsored by the Museum 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. For more information please contact the Loyd Files Research Library at 970.242.0971, ext. 209.

Guess Who's Coming To Chautauqua?

Our Chautauqua committee is diligently working on lining up performers for our 9th Annual Two Rivers Chautauqua for September 19th and 20th. The theme for this year's premiere event will be *American Dreams*.

Our Young Chautauquan program is also gearing up for the event. Find out more about the program below.

Mark your calendars for September and stay tuned to find out who our exciting Chautauquans will be!

Young Chautauquans in Grand Junction schools are engaged in the process of reading, refining research and writing engaging monologues for their historical characters. After workshops with adult Chautauqua coaches Susan Marie Frontczak and John Stansfield, students will present to parents and classmates in early May. You may be able to catch these performances at East Middle School, Wingate Elementary, Orchard Avenue Elementary or Caprock Academy. Young presenters will continue to entertain around town over the summer, develop their performance techniques and amaze audiences during final performance at Two Rivers Chautauqua – *American Dreams*. For more details about performances and/or workshops for interested students, email hall.susangj@gmail.com.

After Hours Tours: Historic Downtown Grand Junction Tour

**Friday, April 18 • 5:30 pm
Meet at Museum of the West
5th and Ute**

\$5/person • Pre-registration not required

Historic Downtown Grand Junction Tours are offered during the spring and summer months. These tours will explore some of the fascinating stories, colorful characters and beautiful buildings of downtown.

Cross Times Cookin'

April showers bring May flowers.

Roast Pigeons

Pigeons
Stuffing

Butter
Wheat Flour

Clean pigeons, stuff them same as chickens; leave the feet on, dip them into scalding water, strip off the skin, cross them, and tie them together below the breastbone; or cut them off. The head may remain on; if so, dip it in scalding water, and pick it clean; twist the wings back, put the liver between the right wing and the body, and turn the head under the other. Rub outside of each bird with a mixture of salt and pepper; put on a spit and put some water in the dripping pan. For each bird put a bit of butter the size of a small egg, put them before a hot fire and let them roast quickly. Baste frequently; half an hour will do them; when nearly done, dredge them with wheat flour and baste with the butter in the pan. Turn them that they may be nicely and easily browned. When done, take them up, set the pan over the fire, make a thin batter of a teaspoonful of wheat flour and cold water. When the gravy is boiling hot, stir it in; continue to stir it for a few minutes until it is brown, then pour it through a gravy sieve into a tureen, and serve with the pigeons.

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New stock is arriving for the gift shops as this is being written.

Dinosaur Journey has new and fun things coming in.

Check us out!

Support your museums by shopping the gift shops.



Museum of Western Colorado
P.O. Box 20000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020

Non-Profit
Organization
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Permit No. 194

Cross Orchards Historic Site

3073 F Road • (970) 434-9814
Closed for the season.

Dinosaur Journey Museum

550 Jurassic Court, Fruita • (970) 858-7282
October 1 - April 30
Monday - Saturday • 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday • Noon to 4 pm

Museum of the West

462 Ute (5th & Ute) • (970) 242-0971
October 1 - April 30
Tuesday - Saturday • 10 am to 3 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

Loyd Files Research Library

Tuesday – Friday • 10 am – 3 pm
Saturday • 10 am – 1 pm

www.museumofwesternco.org
e-mail: info@westcomuseum.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

APR	1	Noon	Paleo Volunteer Meeting	Dinosaur Journey Museum
	4	9:30 am	Craft Meeting	Cross Orchards Historic Site
	10		Fort Uncompahgre Trip	
	10	7 pm	Changing Landscapes of Science Lecture	Whitman Educational Center
	17	Noon	Oral History Program	Whitman Educational Center
	17	5:30 - 7 pm	Members Only SEA MONSTERS Exhibit Opening	Dinosaur Journey Museum
	18	9:30 am	Craft Meeting	Cross Orchards Historic Site
	18		SEA MONSTERS Exhibit Opening	Dinosaur Journey Museum
	18	5:30 pm	After Hours: Historic Grand Junction Walking Tour	Meet at Museum of the West
	30	Noon	Cross Orchards Volunteer Meeting	Cross Orchards Historic Site