

Priest Lake Museum

Spring 2015 Newsletter

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRIEST LAKE HISTORY BOOK



Wild Place

A History of Priest Lake, Idaho



KRIS RUNBERG SMITH WITH TOM WEITZ

BINARCH

This summer the Priest Lake Museum introduces *Wild Place: The History of Priest Lake, Idaho*, published by Washington State University Press. This book traces a century of the lake's history from the early trappers to the creation of the Upper Priest Lake Scenic Area. Historian Kris Runberg Smith spent five years uncovering sources in the National Archives, Yale University, and the Midwest Jesuit Archives along with the museum's collection. The book features two hundred photographs and five detailed maps created by Sandpoint cartographer Sylvie White. It incorporates oral histories, newspaper accounts, and recent material donated by dozens of Priest Lake families. It will be available this summer at the museum.

Dear Museum Friends,

This summer promises to be an exciting season for the museum. The WSU Press is diligently working on the publication of our new book, *Wild Place – A History of Priest Lake, Idaho*, with plans to have the book ready for distribution by early June. In conjunction with the release of the book, the museum is planning two projects to celebrate the book's publication. The first is a new special exhibit in the museum which will display many of the maps and photographs from the book, along with objects from the museum's collection. The second is the **Priest Lake Heritage Series** of presentations at various venues around the lake this summer. Author

Kris Runberg Smith and other experts will share images and stories on many of topics covered in the book.

The book would not have been possible without Kris's extensive research and dedication to the documentation of Priest Lake's history, the support and encouragement of the museum's board of directors, and the financial support of all those individuals that contributed to this project. As a result of our fundraising efforts, the book will be very reasonably priced at \$24.95 plus tax. A big thank you to everyone that has contributed to this exciting project.

There were a few changes on the museum's board of directors this past year.

Michelle Barns stepped down from the board, Mike Rydbom was appointed to fill Michelle's position and Mary Driscoll assumed the duties of secretary. We thank Michelle for her service and welcome Mike to the board.

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to thank you, and all our volunteers and donors, for your continued support of the Priest Lake Museum. I also want to thank Kris Runberg Smith for her dedication to the research and writing that made *Wild Place* possible, and for her assistance with this newsletter.

My best wishes for great summer season.

*Tom Weitz, President
Priest Lake Museum Association*

The Priest Lake Museum Association was founded to preserve and promote the rich heritage of the surrounding region.

Since the museum's nature garden was dedicated in 1999, forty-six names have been placed on the memorial plaques which are displayed on the large rock. The plaques read "Family and Friends, Remembered Loved Ones - -", followed by the names of those remembered. The most recent plaque was installed in 2001. The museum has received a few requests for another plaque to remember loved ones. If you would like to have your loved ones name added to the plaque, please contact a museum board member.



HERITAGE SERIES

This summer the museum is hosting the **Priest Lake Heritage Series** to celebrate the publication of *Wild Place*. Smith along with local experts will share images and stories on topics ranging from the lake's first geographical survey in 1860 to arrival of electricity and a paved road a century later. The series kicks off with ***Andy Coolin's Schemes: Early Tourism and Settlement*** at the Coolin Community Hall on Sunday, May 24 at 1:00 pm. After an illustrated presentation, there will be a walking tour through the village that ends at the Old Northern Inn, one of the oldest buildings in the region. On Wednesday evening of July 8 at Elkin's Resort, our presentation titled ***Vacationist's Cult: Tourism and Recreation*** includes the development of residential residences on public lands and the tough business of tourism at the lake.

The presentation ***On Bended Knees: State of Idaho at Priest Lake*** on July 11 at 8:00 at Indian Creek Campground explores how the state came to own the east side, the historical management of endowment lands, and the development of state parks. On Wednesday, July 15 at 8:00 pm at the Priest Lake Library a program features ***Land Fit for Home Making: Settling Priest Lake*** that highlights homesteading, the challenges of transportation, and schooling. The ***Locked Up: Federal Government at Priest Lake*** talk on August 1 at 8:00 at Luby Bay Campground begins with the creation of the Priest River Timber Reserve in 1897. It considers the role of government at the lake including the development of the Forest Service, firefighting, the CCC, and land management changes. In conjunction with the evening program, *Wild Places* coauthor Tom Weitz leads a walking tour of the 1930s ***Kalispell Bay Civil Conservation Corps Camp*** site beginning at 10:00 at the Community Church. Weitz, a retired geologist and mining manager, also offers talks on ***Mines and Prospects around Priest Lake*** on August 20 and September 5 at 8:00 pm at the Indian Creek Campground.

Several programs highlight specific topics including a guided tour of the Priest Lake Museum's ***Nature Garden*** by Arley Sue Hagman on July 13 at 1:00 pm. ***Sourdoughs and Settlers Surviving: Foodways at Priest Lake***, about gathering and preserving food will be presented on July 18 at the Huckleberry Festival. Indian Creek State Park will host demonstrations and presentations about ***Logging at the Lake*** on July 25 and on August 7 will show the new film on ***Nell Shipman***.

The dates, locations and times of these presentations may change. Please check at the museum or the Priest Lake Chamber of Commerce's website www.priestlake.org for updates.

The Priest Lake Heritage Series is a cooperative effort with the museum along with Priest Lake State Park, the Priest Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Coolin Civic Organization, the Priest Lake Library, and Priest Lake Search and Rescue. All the presentations are free and signed copies of *Wild Place: The History of Priest Lake, Idaho* will be available for purchase.

PRIEST LAKE HERITAGE SERIES

Free Programs Around the Lake all Summer - Join Us!

- May 24 **“Andy Coolin’s Schemes”**: Early Tourism and Settlement talk and walking Tour - Coolin Civic Center 1-2:30 PM
- July 8 **“Vacationist’s Cult”**: Tourism and Recreation - Elkin’s Resort 8 PM
- July 11 **“On Bended Knees”**: State of Idaho at Priest Lake – Indian Creek Campground 8 PM*
- July 13 **Priest Lake Museum Nature Garden Tour** with Arley Sue Hagman – 1 PM
- July 15 **“Land Fit for Home Making”**: Settling Priest Lake – Priest Lake Library 8 PM
- July 18 **Sourdoughs and Settlers Surviving: Foodways at Priest Lake** – Huckleberry Festival
- July 25 **Logging at the Lake** demonstrations and presentations – Indian Creek Campground*
- August 1 **Kalispell Bay Civil Conservation Corps Camp** walking tour – Meet at Community Church 10 AM
- August 1 **“Locked Up”**: Federal Government at Priest Lake – Luby Bay Campground 8 PM
- August 8 **Nell Shipman: Girl from God’s Country** film – Indian Creek Campground 8 PM*
- August 20 **Mines and Prospects around Priest Lake** by Tom Weitz – Indian Creek Campground 8 PM*
- Sept. 5 **Mines and Prospects around Priest Lake** by Tom Weitz – Indian Creek Campground 8 PM*

*In collaboration with *Celebrate 50 Years of Idaho State Parks*

Please check at the museum or the Priest Lake Chamber of Commerce’s website www.priestlake.org for updates.

COLLECTIONS

THANKS TO DONORS FOR EXPANDING COLLECTIONS

The mission of the Priest Lake Museum Association is to collect and make available to the public the history of the Priest Lake region, including the natural and cultural characteristics making Priest Lake unique. The Association's major function is to preserve, prepare and display for the general public any materials that may help illustrate early exploration, settlement and development of the region. This past year has seen an increase in the number of photographs and objects gifted to the museum. While we cannot list and acknowledge all of the donations received in this newsletter, the following are a few of the items the museum has recently accepted for its growing collection:

OBJECTS

James-Forsyth Collection of 175 photographs
 Kant-sink-em boat
 Rocky chair that belonged to Leonard Paul's mother
 Stone grinding tools
 Monarch wood cook stove and miscellaneous items

Drift Inn sign-in book and picture of Dad Moulton
Robinson Crusoe book signed by Leonard Paul
 Stump puller
 Leonard Paul Store books and ledgers
 Snowshoe softball history
 1939 maps of Priest Lake
 CCC photographs
 Miscellaneous kitchen items
 Babbitt Biographies

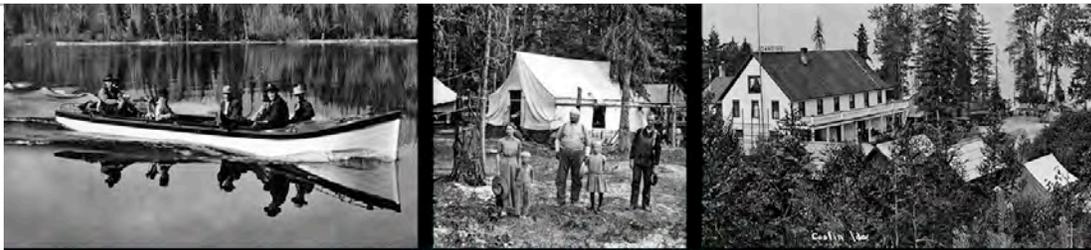
DONORS

Ann Paden and Beth Nicholson
 Pearson and Bowling Families
 Kathy (Chronic) Van Oerle
 Wendy Collins
 John Morton Starlin and Grace Meeker
 Starlin Families
 Sue Maguire
 Beth Riley
 McWilliams Family
 Charlotte Jones
 Janet Bastine
 Curt Shoemaker
 Mike Sudnikovich
 Donna Malbon
 Carol Jean (Babbitt) Brown

The Priest Lake Museum Association would like to thank everyone that contributed to the museum's collection. The museum continues to accept objects and photographs that fulfill our mission. If you have photos to share please bring them by the museum on Luby Bay or Pam Martin at the Entrée Gallery on Reeder Bay Road. If you prefer, we will copy the images and return the original photographs to you. We are also looking for volunteers to help catalog the objects and photographs into our collection management system. If interested, please contact Tom Weitz.

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Did you know the museum has an extensive collection of oral histories? Begun in 1983, the collection now exceeds 80 interviews of Priest Lake men and women that provide a fascinating window into the past at the lake. Board member Mary Toutonghi serves as the museum oral historian. Carlos Landa transfers the interviews to the museum's collection management software and prepares copies for the Priest Lake Library and Bonner County Historical. CD's with the oral histories are available for loan from the museum, or may be listened to at the Priest Lake Library.



Wild Place

A History of Priest Lake, Idaho



KRIS RUNBERG SMITH WITH TOM WEITZ

BINARCH

Celebrate Priest Lake's heritage this summer!

Attend free presentations and buy your copy of
Wild Place at the Priest Lake Museum.

Priest Lake Museum
Association
P.O. Box 44
Coolin, Idaho 83821

Priest Lake Museum is a volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our financial support comes from memberships, monetary/in-kind donations and the sale of Priest Lake-related books, DVDs and other Museum-related items. There is no paid staff. The Museum is maintained and operated by a dedicated corps of volunteers.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

YES, I'd like to become a member (or renew an existing membership)!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| _____ Gold Club | \$500 or more | _____ Silver Club | \$400 - \$499 |
| _____ Baritoe Island | \$ 300 - \$399 | _____ Kalispell Island | \$200 - \$299 |
| _____ Eight Mile Island | \$100 - \$199 | _____ Four Mile Island | \$ 50 - \$ 99 |
| _____ Twin Islands | \$25 - \$ 49 | _____ Papoose Island | under \$25 |

YES, I'd like to make an additional donation of \$_____

This gift is: In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Please acknowledge this gift to:

Name: _____

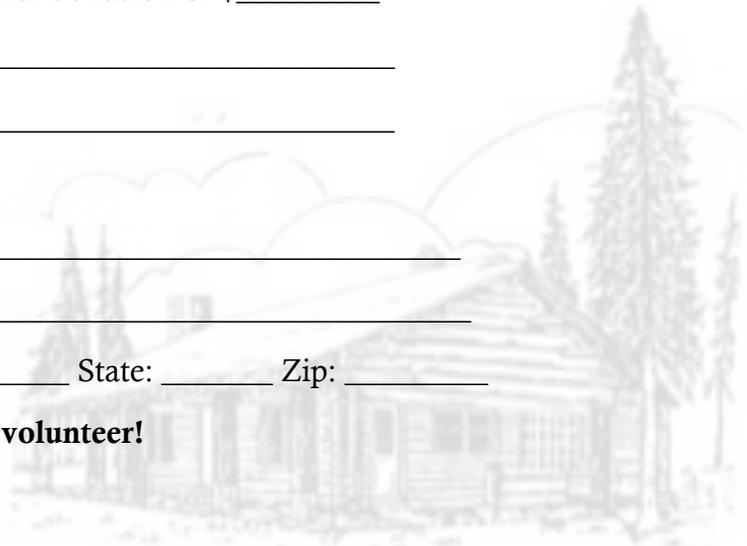
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

YES, I'd like to become a (new) volunteer!

I'd be interested in:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Hosting | _____ Nature Garden & Facilities |
| _____ Display | _____ Newsletter |
| _____ Other | |



Museum Hours

The Priest Lake Museum is open from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. Museum hours are 10 to 4 daily, Tuesday through Sunday from mid-June through Labor Day, and 10 to 4 on weekends in early June, and in September after Labor Day. The museum is closed Mondays, except holidays.

Volunteer Opportunities

Host volunteers are needed for the 2015 season. If you are interested in hosting for a few hours at the museum, please complete the form in this newsletter, or contact the Volunteer Host Coordinator at 208-443-0210 or 509-993-4445.

Volunteers are also needed to transcribe oral history recordings, help with our collection management system, and assist with the nature garden.

2015 Board Members

Kay Coykendall
Barb Conboy
Mary Driscoll
Bob Faulkner
Arley Sue Hagman
Lois Hill
Tom Holman
Michael Kain
Carlos Landa
Pam Martin
Mike Rydborn
Mary Toutonghi
Tom Weitz
Don Widman
Elaine Widman
Chuck Willits
Debbie Butler,
U.S.F.S. Liaison

Priest Lake Museum Association

P.O. Box 44
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