

Priest Lake Museum

Spring 2019 Newsletter



Birds of the Priest Lake Ecosystem



LINGER LONGER

with the Birds, a Dreamer, and the Myths of Priest Lake

The museum announces an exciting Heritage Speakers Series for July. Doni Guyer kicks off the series on July 10 at a new location, the Community Church Fellowship Room. She will share her history and family stories of **Linger Longer Lodge**. On July 17, at the Coolin Community Center, historian Kris Runberg Smith presents "**MythBusters: Priest Lake Edition**" as she looks at the facts and mysteries surrounding the lake's most enduring stories. At the Coolin Community Center on July 24, the best birder on the lake, Robert Bond, shares his knowledge and photographs with "**Feathered Friends of Priest Lake.**" Copies of his book, *Birds of the Priest Lake Ecosystem*, will be available.

Naturalist and historian Jack Nisbet rounds out the series with "**John B. Leiberg: Surveying Priest Lake's Potential in 1898**" on July 31 in the Community Church Fellowship Room. Nisbet's newest book, *The Dream and the Doctor: A Forest Lover and A Physician on the Edge of the Frontier*, traces the unlikely adventures of John and Carrie Leiberg around the Idaho Panhandle.

In 1897, John Leiberg, surveyed Priest Lake for the U.S. Geological Survey. He struggled his way through the reserve, mapping the merchantable forests and potential farmland. He also took some of the earliest photographs of Priest Lake.

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Dear Museum Friends,

During the summer of 2018 we hosted 3,195 visitors at the museum. We give THANKS to the almost 50 volunteer hosts who served daily to make it possible for our museum to be open and to serve so many people! Without the help of these many volunteers the museum would not be open as many days as it is. If you have an interest in helping as a host at the museum please contact either our volunteer coordinator, Elaine Widman at dwidman@moosebytes.net, or the museum. Hosting is a great way to learn about the history of the lake, meet interesting people and listen to many visitors tell about their experiences at the lake. We welcome your participation!

The museum continued to offer our Heritage Series programs with four presentations at various venues around the lake. Many thanks go to Kris Runberg Smith, Teri Hill and Bob

Davis for presenting these most informative and interesting events in the summer of 2018 attended by over 200 people.

We installed our latest interpretive sign lakeside at Elkins Resort giving a history of the Reeder Bay area. Be sure and check in out next time you are at Elkins.

This coming summer of 2019 is shaping up to be another fantastic season for us!

- * The museum will be presenting our newest exhibit - The History of Mining in the Priest Lake Area. Tom Weitz and others have done a great job putting this exhibit together. Be sure to stop by and visit.
- We're also bringing back several museum sponsored hikes to various historic sites around the lake. July 11th we'll be visiting an abandoned mining site. July 25th we'll go past this same mining site and continue to a higher elevation for spectacular vistas of the lake.

I would like to personally thank each of our board members as well as the many volunteers for all they do to make the Priest Lake Museum a very outstanding organization. Finally, I would like to thank each of you who are receiving this newsletter for your continued support - Your dedication of financial resources and time are vital to our success.

Looking forward to this summer,

Mike Rydbom
President



Mike honoring long-time board member Pam Martin last summer at the Host Thank-you Party.

Museum Happenings 2019

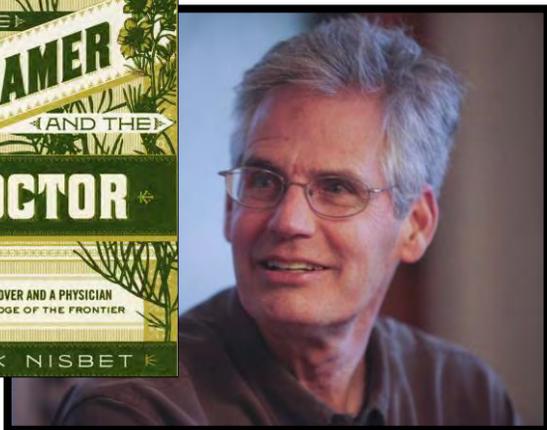
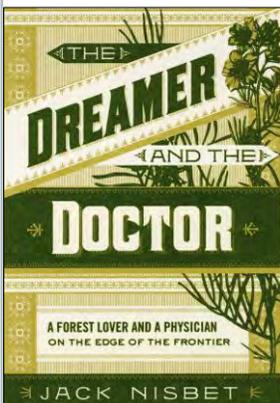
<p>July 10</p>	<p>Community Church Fellowship Room Hall @7:00 The History of Linger Longer Lodge: presented by Doni Guyer</p>
<p>July 11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Kalispell Bay Day Use parking lot @ 9:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Museum Hikes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">An hour walk visiting an abandoned mining site up in the hills with panoramic views of the lower lake. Vertical gain is about 400 feet on a jeep trail and single track. Bring water and snacks.</p>
<p>July 17</p>	<p>Coolin Community Center @7:00 MythBuster's: Priest Lake Edition Presented by Kris Runberg Smith</p>
<p>July 24</p>	<p>Coolin Community Hall @7:00 Feathered Friends of Priest Lake presented by Robert Bond</p>
<p>July 25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Kalispell Bay Day Use parking lot @ 9:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Museum Hikes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Two hour walk with a vertical gain of about 800 feet and more spectacular vistas. It will include the mining site and a rather strenuous cardio workout for the next 20 minutes to the top. Bring water and snacks.</p>
<p>July 31</p>	<p>Community Church Fellowship Room @7:00 John B. Leiberg: Surveying Priest Lake's Potential in 1898 presented by Jack Nisbet</p>

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When John Leiberg and his wife, the Doctor, Carrie homesteaded on the south end of Lake Pend Oreille in the mid-1880s, he was a prospector and she had an infant son to raise. Over the next two decades, his skills as a naturalist and hers as a trained physician led them through a series of adventures that outstripped their wildest dreams. The year 1897, when John carried out his landmark survey of the Priest River Forest Reserve, marked a turning point in their journey.

You can join award-winning author Jack Nisbet for a slide show that explores how the Leibergs fit into the context of the Idaho Panhandle of that time, and how their story resonates through to issues we still grapple with today on July 31 at 7:00 at the Community Church Fellowship Room. Copies of *The Dreamer and The Doctor* will be on sale.

Jack is the author of several collections of stories that explore the human and natural history of the Northwest, including *Ancient Places* and *Visible Bones*. He has also written award-winning biographies of fur agent David Thompson and naturalist David Douglas. For more information visit www.jacknisbet.com



Reviewing *The Dreamer and the Doctor*

Spokane-based author Jack Nisbet's latest book is a very well researched and written history of *A Forest Lover and a Physician on the Edge of the Frontier*. John Leiberg was also a self-taught naturalist and over the next two decades he was commissioned by the U.S Government to conduct botanical surveys throughout the inland northwest. The surveys took Leiberg from the Columbia Plateau and Olympic Mountains in Washington to the Bitterroot and Big Belt mountains in Montana, and from Priest Lake to southern Oregon.

When President Grover Cleveland set aside thirteen controversial western forest reserves in 1897, Leiberg was hired by the U.S. Geological Survey to survey the forests, which included the Priest River Forest Reserve. Leiberg's survey of the Priest Lake area is described in the museum's book *Wild Place, A History of Priest Lake, Idaho* along with his maps.

Besides being an enjoyable read, I found the book interesting because Leiberg visited many regions in the northwest where I have lived, worked or travelled. Leiberg had interests in mining and prospecting, and he proposed geological processes that formed the topography he explored. He observed and warned of many ecological issues, like noxious weeds, poor water quality in the Coeur d'Alene river basin and forest destruction caused by fires – issues that persist today.

By Tom Weitz

Collecting Stories

Diamond Park Beginnings

*Earle and Judy Ruddach donated a copy of the **History of Diamond Park** and the 1958 original bid notice from Diamond Match Company. Judy also included a history and images of their family cabin.*

“Diamond Gardner Corporation is about to offer for sale a limited number of lakeshore frontage lots on Priest Lake....” so stated information disseminated in the summer of 1958 from the Diamond Match Company.

Employees of Diamond Match had “first dibs”, but locals (Newport and Priest River) would also be given an opportunity before bidding was opened up to outside applicants. My father-in-law and mother-in-law (Earle and Maude Ruddach) were successful bidders on a lot for a price of a few thousand dollars. (hard to come up with in those days). Most cabin were do-it-yourself. In those days county land use laws were non-existent, septic tanks and grading were up to the land owners. Our family as well as others would camp

out on the property during construction. Other original owners had their places commercially built.

The road to Diamond Park was originally just dirt. In the hot summers, it was difficult to decide if one should keep the car windows up or down (since there was no air conditioning).



Now, almost sixty years later, a few of the original families or descendants still own the original places: their own little “piece of paradise,” where families and friends have gathered and enjoyed the lake, each other and beautiful sunsets.

1905 Honeymoon

Jody McClellan donated a picture of her grandmother honeymooning at Priest Lake in 1905. She writes:

Elisabeth Jane Bump (1875-1955) was a schoolteacher, originally from New London Ohio, who taught school in Rathdrum, ID. She met my grandfather, Rev. James Henry Martin (1864-1936), while he was in Rathdrum preaching at the Methodist Church. They were married June 20, 1905 and went to Priest Lake for their honeymoon.

Thorofare in 1929

Robert Stauffer donated five minutes of a 1929 film from a fishing trip taken by his great uncle Dr. John T. Bird. Bird stayed at Sam Byar's Forest Lodge. He captured sourdough “Daddy” Duffill, the Byar family waving from their porch, and scenes of the Thorofare. To view the film, go to Priest Lake Museum’s Facebook site.



The Woodrat Mine – “Considerable Merit”

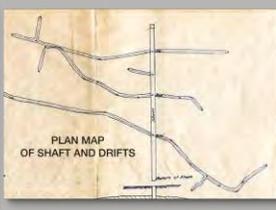
Priest Lake pioneers Andy Coolin, Pete Chase, and Charlie Cary began working the Woodrat mine on Luby Bay in 1905. They formed the Panhandle Copper Mining and Smelting Company so Coolin could raise money by selling stock. The Woodrat sat on Forest Service land and their expert miner Harry Booth examined the mine in 1908. Booth wrote that unlike most Priest Lake mines “This is a valid mining location and a property of considerable merit.”



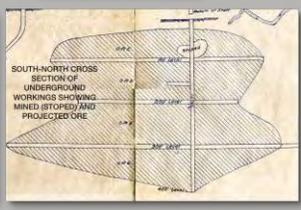
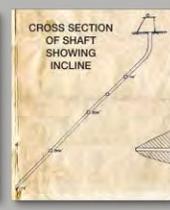
Fire Tube Stationary Engine Boiler
The massive steam engine boiler to your right provided power for the Woodrat Mine. It ran the pumps that kept the lake water out of the tunnels, powered the hoist that brought the miners in and out of the shaft and brought the ore to the surface. Also raised the tie box with wood that headed the fire tubes through a bath of water. The flames escaped out the stack in the front while the steam drove on top toward the high pressure steam to provide the power to drive the mining equipment.



Andy Coolin left the hard labor to others who followed the promising quartz veins some up to 4-feet wide that contained lead, zinc, silver and copper. The main workings consisted of a 50-foot vertical shaft changing to an inclined shaft dipping 45 degrees to the east, under the lake. Tunnels, called “drifts”, to chase the ore bearing quartz veins, were dug off the inclined shaft at each 100-foot level. The total length of the workings was reported to exceeded 3,000 feet, reached 200 feet of depth and extended 200 feet east below the lake’s surface. Along with the underground workings, many short tunnels called “adits” or mining horizons and prospect pits were dug on the adjoining mining claims.



More Money in Speculation
Andy Coolin focused on speculation, raising money for the Woodrat and a number of other mines. He became masterful at getting newspaper press about his mine to attract investors. Some were from Michigan but most as the backers came from Spokane and Priest Lake. For all its promise, transporting ore from the Woodrat proved devastating. Coolin’s luck ran out in 1919 when the sheriff sold off the Woodrat to settle his debts.



1930s & 1940s - Kanika Mining Company and Arthur L. Hooper



In the 1930s, buildings at the Woodrat included a garage and blacksmith shop, a bunkhouse, a cookhouse, a independent house and an ice house. Today all the buildings and equipment are gone and the old mine workings have collapsed or been filled in.



For more information visit the Priest Lake Museum and check out the book *Wild Place: The History of Priest Lake, Idaho*.

This summer we are excited to unveil our new outdoor exhibit on mining around Priest Lake. Three panels tell of the optimistic explorations and disappointing realities of sourdoughs seeking their fortunes. The exhibit incorporates the Woodrat Mine steam boiler now located behind the museum. The massive boiler provided power to the mine, it ran the pumps that kept lake water out of the tunnels, powered the hoist that brought the miners in and out of the shaft, and hauled the ore to the surface. The ore car behind the museum is in a newly constructed tunnel where panels explain how it helped sourdoughs work at least \$100 worth of labor a year to keep their claims. Former museum president Tom Weitz designed this exhibit that brings Priest Lake mining history to life.

Still Logging

Check out the special Logging Exhibit inside the museum. It features a recreated bunk house (without the smells) and a model of the Indian Creek flume (without the water). It traces the history of logging at the lake as it changes with technology and the increasing role of the Diamond Match Company.

Priest Lake StoryCorps

Priest Lake memories will always remain even as so many changes are happening. Make sure you preserve and share those memories with the Priest Lake StoryCorps project. Inspired by the national StoryCorps program, chooses a friend, neighbor or loved one to interview about their experiences at the lake. The museum facilitator takes care of the recording and provides you a copy to take home. The museum preserves your interview and also sends it to the StoryCorps collection, housed at the Library of Congress, <https://archive.storycorps.org/user/priest-lake-museum/>. Sign up for your session this summer at priestlakemuseum@gmail.com or call 208-443-2676.

**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

Priest Lake history and at the same time serve our wonderful community? If so, our cadre of Priest Lake Museum hosts invites you to join us this summer. Whether your schedule will allow you to volunteer as a host at the museum once or several times during the summer, we would welcome your participation. To tweak the old adage "It takes a village to raise a child", we say "It takes a village to nurture a dynamic museum"--and dynamic it is! So, please join us this summer. I can be reached at 509/993-3749 and will be happy to answer your questions about hosting and getting involved.

Elaine Widman

2019 Board Members

Kelly Bacon-Hord
 Barb Conboy
 Kay Coykendall
 Mary Driscoll
 Patty Engle
 Brent Guyer
 Arley Sue Hagman
 Tom Holman
 Kim Impecoven
 Carlos Landa
 Sam and Dorothy
 Latendresse
 Mike Rydbom
 Tom Weitz
 Don Widman
 Elaine Widman
 Debbie Butler,
 USFS Liason

Priest Lake Museum Association

P.O. Box 44
 Coolin, ID 83821



Sign up to interview your favorite lake person with Priest Lake StoryCorps at the museum this summer!