

WATERWAYS

COOS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SUMMER 2017 • WWW.COOSHISTORY.ORG

Coos County Historical Society Annual Award Winners

By Anne Guerin

The trustees of the Coos County Historical Society are proud to announce the winners of our traditional awards, a newly designated maritime award, and the people we are honoring by naming awards after their significant contributions over the years. The awards were presented at the Coos History Museum annual meeting on June 17, 2017.

Mary Banks Granger is the first recipient of the new Maritime Award named for her due to her longstanding preservation of early shipbuilding history. Her enthusiasm for collecting and sharing her family's history in building ships along the Coos Bay waterfront offers a unique opportunity for others to delve into the past with her. She has shared shipbuilding artifacts with the CHM and has devoted two rooms in her home to early shipping displays. (See a feature on Granger in this issue of *Waterways*.)

The annual award for Outstanding Contributions to the Preservation of Local History will now be named in honor of **Nathan Douthit**. Douthit, a history graduate of Harvard and the University of California, Berkeley, came to Coos County in 1969 and taught history at Southwestern Oregon Community College for the next 28 years. Besides his teaching career, Douthit was active in the preservation of local history. He served the Coos County Historical Society for many years and also became a founder and officer of the Marshfield Sun Printing Museum. He has authored several books on



L-R: Karen O'Donnell, Jim Proehl, Tina Mendizabal (granddaughter of Martha Butler), Susi Mendizabal (daughter of Martha Butler), Sue Graves and Bob Granger (daughter and son of Mary Banks Granger) at the annual meeting of the Coos County Historical Society. Photo by Steve Greif

local history. Two of them, *A Guide to South Coast History: Traveling the Jedediah Smith Trail* and *The Coos Bay Region: Life on a Coastal Frontier* are still valuable resources used by many history students today.

Jim Proehl is receiving the above-named History Award in recognition of his exceptional service for leadership in promoting South Coast history. Proehl has shown outstanding dedication to the Bandon Historical Society for many years, influencing its development into a successful heritage organization, and has contributed extensively to countywide historical museums. Since his retirement from teaching, he has engaged in various kinds of community outreach, always promoting civic causes and education, and assisting the museum in Bandon. Proehl recently collaborated on *Coos County Memories: The Early Years*. In addition, Proehl was a very active representative for the Friends of History Museums in Coos County,

working for months to get a measure passed that would have created a county historical fund.

The annual award for Exceptional Assistance or Service to the Coos County Historical Society or Museum will now be named in honor of **Martha Butler**. As the lead donor for the construction of a new facility to house Coos County historical artifacts, Butler triggered the project in late 1999 with her donation of a considerable amount of Tootsie Roll stock. Her generous donation sparked others to donate generously to the Capital Campaign. Though now a resident of Miami, Florida, Butler returned for the grand opening of the museum on the Coos Bay waterfront. Butler was on CHM property in the summer of 2012 to help ceremonially drive the first piling for the museum.

Karen O'Donnell, retiring this summer from the CHM Board of Trustees, is receiving the above-named Service Award for her devotion

(continued on page 3)

President's Message



Bill Mast

Greetings from the CCHS board! I hope everyone is enjoying their first days of summer. I thank all of those who made our annual meeting a success, including board, staff, and members. Those in attendance received reports of all the activities occurring at the museum over the past year, thanks to the efforts of our staff, board members, and volunteers. A vote approved three new trustees and board-recommended by-law changes on term limits for board members.

Our financial picture is improving, due in large part to the work of Executive Director **Susan Tissot**, her interim predecessor **George Wright**, and our outgoing treasurer, **Karen O'Donnell**.

Even though finances are

looking better, we still rely on your generous donations. Grants, dues, and admissions simply don't cover all of our costs. Please remember the museum in your annual giving plans. If you're engaged in estate planning, and can't stand the thought of your kids getting everything, remember the museum. Director Susan Tissot or your financial planner can advise you on the type of bequests which best fit the museum.

Those of you looking for fun summertime activities, there is still time to sign up for two major events sponsored by the museum. The first is the Bethel Creek/Langlois Mountain tour scheduled for July 15th. In addition to viewing some stunning scenery, you'll see some of the outstanding ranches in Oregon and learn the rich history of that area. We aim to make this

tour as enjoyable as last year's Powers/Eckley tour. Our annual major fundraiser takes place on August 19th. This year's theme is *The Drunken Botanist* and features bestselling author **Amy Stewart**. To purchase tickets for either event, go to the front desk at the museum or call (541) 756-6320.

In closing, I'd like to recognize five board members who retired this year: **Karen O'Donnell, Ann Collins, Darla Lesan, Toni Poole, and Sally Prouty**. We'll miss them all. To the rest of you, enjoy your summer!

Coos County Historical Society

Staff

Executive Director: Susan Tissot
Collections Manager: Debra Semrau
Education Coordinator: Amy Pollicino
Volunteer Coordinator and
Store Manager: Valerie Caskey
Rentals & Marketing: Brenda Carson
Rentals Asst.: Ian Ruiz
Visitor Services Asst.: Becca Hill
Bookkeeper: Terri Knight

Board of Trustees

President: Bill Mast
Vice-President: Carol Ventgen
Secretary: Anne Guerin
Treasurer: Kathy Henry
Trustees: Toni Ann Brend, Steve Greif, Ryan Hogan, Jan Hooper, Suzie McDaniel, Xandra McKeown, Kristi Pennington, Arlene Roblan, Carl Siminow, Joe Slack

Museum Operations

Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10-5
Adults = \$7, Children 5-17 = \$3
Family Maximum = \$17
AARP, AAA and senior discounts
Free admission to CCHS members, NARM program members, and active-duty military.
541.756.6320, www.cooshistory.org



In a "weeding party" on June 10, a group of CHM board members, Coos Watershed officers, and volunteers spent about three hours cleaning up the parking lots, islands and the planted berm along Front Street. L-R: Joe Slack, Alexa Carlton, Elise Hamner, Steve Greif, Joan Greif, Bill Mast. Not pictured: Teal Hamner and Liz Galli-Noble.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at the museum.

Contact Valerie Caskey at volunteercoordinator@cooshistory.org or call 541-756-6320 for more information.

Executive Director's Note



Susan Tissot

Boy, how time flies. Seven months have flown by since I first took the reins (during the shoulder season) at the CHM and now the summer season is upon us. In January, we began formally collecting visitor zip codes which revealed that between January and mid-June people from 42 states and 14 countries purposely came through the museum's front doors to experience what the museum has to offer. This is impressive to say the least, especially since our lean budget does not allow for much paid advertising or outside marketing. I am very excited to see how we fare during the coming peak season or summer months.

Tourism is important to all of us here on the South Coast. New energy and disposable income from outside the area make a big impact to the local economy, including the museum. We have a beautiful facility

with engaging exhibits and public programs, not to mention a very cool museum store! We are positioned on the Coos Bay waterfront at exactly the right time. Remember my previous column about timing? We eagerly await the new commercial ventures that are developing to the north and south of the museum. It is an exciting time with great potential. Once completed, these new ventures will enhance the waterfront experience and contribute back to the community by putting heads in beds and bringing an infusion of needed revenue. The museum is ready and waiting with great hopes for collaboration and partnership with our new neighbors.

What role do residents play in all of this? The museum currently has 662 households whose membership is at the Family Level or higher. We also have people who support us at the Individual Level. That translates into roughly 2,000 people who annually support the museum. Your

annual membership dues provide you with a number of benefits which include free admission to the museum. If you are at the Friend Level or higher, you also receive the NARM benefits which include reciprocal member benefits at 946 museums across the country. The best way you can lend support is by being a great ambassador. Word-of-mouth is extremely valuable. Tell your friends and neighbors about the museum. Encourage them to visit the museum and participate in our public programs. Attend museum programs. Bring your family and visiting guests to the museum. Enjoy a night out and help celebrate all the great things your museum does by attending our annual fundraising event on August 19 which features *The Drunken Botanist*. Tickets are on sale now. And, if your membership has lapsed, please renew. We greatly appreciate and need your continued support. Enjoy the summer and we hope to see you soon at the museum!

... Winners

(continued from page 1)

to shepherding and reporting on the museum's finances. A CPA since 1978, O'Donnell has served as board treasurer since April 2008 when the building fundraising was about halfway complete. She continued as treasurer through the end of the capital campaign, the building of the new facility, and the first years of operation. Through these phases, O'Donnell provided consistent leadership in fiscal matters, with a conservative and cautious approach. The board benefitted greatly from her guidance. She commented, "It has been an honor and challenge to serve."



The museum recently hosted a Fermentation Day on May 27, a second annual event, organized by **Amy Pollicino**, the museum's Education Coordinator. Roughly 100 people attended the afternoon event which involved Seven Devils Brewery, the North Bend High School Culinary program, the Fermentation Bus from Eugene and others. Attendees had multiple opportunities to learn fermentation processes from the presenters and experience a full sensory environment.



Calendar of Events

**COOS
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

We are working hard at bringing new and relevant public programming to the community. The following is a partial list of upcoming events. Check the museum's website for a full calendar of events, www.cooshistory.org.

JULY

Exhibits: Coos County in Main Gallery, Coos Agriculture on Mezzanine

4 – No First Tuesday Talks*: Happy Independence Day!

9 – Second Sunday Family Fun Day: 1-3p.m. Museum admission FREE all day plus hands on activities for kids and the young at heart. Activities: TBA. Sponsored by Coquille Animal Hospital.

15 – Langlois Mountain Tour: 10a.m.-4p.m., Meet in Bandon. A tour of Southern Coos and Northern Curry counties. \$30 fee. Pre-registration required. CCHS members only.

17-21 – Session One: Summer History Day Camp: Paper Puppet Theater History Camp. 9a.m.-1p.m. each day. 7-10 year olds, \$110 non-members, \$90 members. Pre-registration required.



30 – Knot Club: 2-4p.m. Skill-sharing club all about how to tie different kinds of knots. Members enjoy working on various projects throughout the year. All levels welcome!

AUGUST

Exhibits: Coos County in Main Gallery, Coos Agriculture on Mezzanine

1 – First Tuesday Talks: Museum open extended hours 6-8:30 p.m.



with galleries and store open. Lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. \$7 adults, free for museum members. Speaker: Thomas Hines, *The Lighthouses of the*

Southern Oregon Coast and the US Coast Guard in Coos Bay. Sponsored by: Al Peirce Co. with additional in-kind support from The Mill Casino.

11 – Native American Basketry Class: Small Wasco Sally Bag. 10a.m.-



4p.m. Taught by Internationally known Wasco Teacher and Lecturer Pat Courtney Gold. Class limited to 10 students; pre-registration and payment required. \$65 fee includes all materials. Some twining experience helpful.

12 – Native American Basketry Class: Traditional Twined Basket Using Plant Fibers. 1-7p.m. Taught by Internationally known Wasco Teacher and Lecturer Pat Courtney Gold. Class limited to 8 students; pre-registration and payment required. \$100 fee includes all materials. Some twining experience required.

13 – Second Sunday Family Fun Day: 1-3p.m. Museum admission FREE all day plus hands on activities for kids and the young at heart. Activities: TBA. Sponsored by Coquille Animal Hospital.

14-18 – Session Two: Summer History Day Camp: Paper Puppet Theater History Camp. 9a.m.-1p.m. each day. 7-10 year olds, \$110 non-members, \$90 members. Pre-registration required.

19 – The Drunken Botanist: 6-10p.m. Dinner & Cocktail



Fundraising Event with noted author New York Times Best Seller Amy Stewart. Advanced ticket purchase required. Books available for

purchase at museum! Sponsored by: Morgan Stanley: The Coos Bay Office at Morgan Stanley.

27 – Knot Club: 2-4p.m. Skill-sharing club all about how to tie different kinds of knots. Members enjoy working on various projects throughout the year. All levels welcome!

SEPTEMBER

Exhibits: Coos County in Main Gallery, Coos Agriculture on Mezzanine

TBA: Historic Walking Tour Program

5 – First Tuesday Talks: Museum open extended hours 6-8:30 p.m.



with galleries and store open. Lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. \$7 adults, free for museum members. Speaker: Dr. Roberta Hall, *Portraits of the*

Coquille People. Sponsored by: Al Peirce Co. with additional in-kind support from The Mill Casino.

9 – Salmon Celebration: Visit our booth at the The Mill Casino.

10 – Second Sunday Family Fun Day: 1-3p.m. Museum admission FREE all day plus hands on activities for kids and the young at heart. Activities: TBA. Sponsored by Coquille Animal Hospital.

24 – Knot Club: 2-4p.m. Skill-sharing club all about how to tie different kinds of knots. Members enjoy working on various projects throughout the year. All levels welcome!



**COOS
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

www.cooshistory.org

Shipbuilder's Daughter: Mary Banks Granger

By Arlene Roblan

Mary Granger is a remarkably sharp minded and beautiful woman who will celebrate her 102nd birthday August 13 of this year. She remains in her North Bend home, surrounded by memorabilia of her family's shipbuilding history. You might say that Mary's formative years coincided with the formative years of North Bend and Coos Bay. Those were the simpler, focused days, according to Mary. As a five-year-old child, she once rode her tricycle the better part of a mile from her home in the Hillcrest area down to the shipyards (where The Mill Casino is now) to visit her dad. There was a single road leading the way in 1920.

Mary's dad, **Robert Banks**, along with his partner, **Knute (KV) Kruse**, built huge cargo ships for transporting lumber, as well as eight mine sweepers during times of war. They even built two Tall Ships, much like the ships recently visiting locally. In their partnership at the turn of the 20th Century, Kruse would design the ships and Banks supervised the construction. Mary emphasized the fine craftsmanship of the shipbuilders in those days and shared her excitement over the current boat building center in the area. The first of the ships built was named *North Bend*. Banks represented the underwriters for the International Port of Coos Bay.

Between 1900 and the 1960s, ships came from all over the world for lumber. The bay was full of ships.

The ship captains and their families often visited the Banks family, sometimes bringing gifts of fabrics, fans, and even a parrot! Mary tells of the parrot imitating her mother's voice so well that the parrot would yell, "Mary! Mary!" And Mary, thinking her mother was calling, would hurry home from playing in the neighborhood. The antics of



Along with many other artifacts from the early shipbuilding days in North Bend, Mary Granger has the steering wheel of the 'North Bend' with a painting of it in the center. Photos by Sue Graves

Polly occasionally caused the family to miss a phone call, as Polly would imitate Mary's mother by saying into the phone, "Hello! Hello there! How are you today? What are you doing today? Goodbye now." Before the correct family member had reached the phone, the caller would hang up.

Mary tells of a particular family from Australia who had three children around her age. They were schooled on the ship by their mother, who was a teacher. Mary has fond memories of the family and the times they spent together playing and sharing meals at the Banks' home and on the ship.

Everything in those days



Mary Granger shares her family's shipbuilding history.

revolved around ship building and the shipyard, with about six hundred people employed at the shipyard. When a ship was launched, many came out to celebrate. Mary got to launch three of the ships; her first launch was at age five.

There were many trips to San Francisco. What an experience that was! The tall buildings, busy streets, huge celebrations on New Year's Eve! Mary remembers the confetti, the crowds and the colorful lights. It was a different world from our own "Bay Area".

Mary reflects that times were much simpler then. Children could be out in the neighborhoods all day, and life revolved around the family. Entire families went to dances together. There were big bands and always lots of music everywhere. Happy Birthday, Mary!

Membership Roll Call

March 15-May 31, 2017

New Individuals

York, Betty
Stoddard, Jan
Swafford, Debra

New Family

Leberti, Kim
Main, Craig & Shari
Seip, Ron & Suzanne
Heath, Ann & Michael
Spooner, Yvonne
Gonzales, Brittani

New Friend

Taft, Lee (Bi-Coastal Media)
Rosenberger, Nancy
Larson, Kendra
Pennington, Kristi
Wall, Chuck & Diana

Renew Individuals

Lehrbach, Nancy
Bream, Jennifer
Banks, Sheila
Bereson, Jo
Jensen, Andie
Poitra, Dorothy
Matson, Lucilla
Brainard, Michael
Sebesta, Richard
Webb, Lynda

Renew Family

Cooley, Valerie & Dave Gray
Miles, Dena & Robt
Reid, Chas & Elizabeth
Gillespie, Michael & Jan
Robertson, Daniel & Mary
Boshears, Ken & Avadna
Snyder, Pat & Gail
Sweatt, Dana & Linda
Nelsen, Ray & Barbara
Thrift, Clyde & Diane
Burgher, Wm & Corliss
Zeebuyth, Rex & Marcia
Kirk, Richard & Linda
Davis, Valerie

Upgrade Renewal to Friend

Petterson, Mark & Linda
Heady, Rich & Franny
Woolley, Mary
Quinn, Michael & Lindi
Conner, Janell
Coos Bay Grocery Outlet
Kain, Kristine
Golder, Lee & Sharon
Richardson, Pat

Upgrade Renewal to Benefactor

Mattecheck, Bob & Marianna

New Employees Support the Museum's Operations

By Anne Guerin

Debra Semrau has come on board as the new Collections Manager, filling the vacancy left by **Vicki Wiese**. A seasoned collections manager, Semrau will work full-time. She earned a master's degree from the museum studies program in Cooperstown, New York, and formerly worked for **Susan Tissot**, Executive Director, on a contract basis at the Clark County Historical Museum in Vancouver, Washington. She brings both collections management and exhibit experience to the job. She is looking forward to telling the story of Coos County history through the collections at the museum.



Brenda Carson, Rentals & Marketing Coordinator, has been hired as a half-time employee to replace **Jeanne Hart**, who recently resigned to accept a new position in another field of interest. Carson, 10 years in the Coos Bay area, has retail experience through Vintage 101 and filled a similar job of organizing events in her employment past. Carson describes herself as a people person and loves this community.



Planning and organizing are among her strong traits. Having grandchildren in this city helps to anchor her to the Bay area.

Ian Ruiz, Rentals Asst., is a relative newcomer to our area, hailing from south Texas, where he was employed at Walmart. He will work part-time in managing events. Ruiz is enjoying the quiet atmosphere and scenery of this area. One of his employment goals is to be an asset to the team.



Becca Hill, Visitor Services Asst., is working half-time focusing on membership, donor records, correspondence, and general administrative support. Hill was drawn to this position having grown up with museums and living in culturally enriched places. At one point, she had a piece of living art in the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco. Also, Hill has been volunteering here since last May. She and her husband, a physics teacher at Marshfield High School, have lived in this area 11 years. With three children in tow, Hill is involved with Scouting.



Drunken Botanist

Saturday, August 19,
6-10p.m.

Dinner & Cocktail
Fundraising Event

Don't miss out on an entertaining evening with New York Times Best Seller Author, Amy Stewart. Books available for purchase at museum! Advanced ticket purchase required.

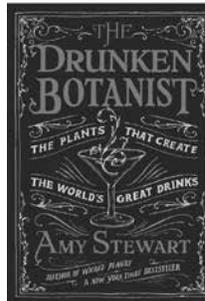
Call 541-756-6230
to purchase tickets.

Sponsored by: Morgan Stanley: The Coos Bay Office at Morgan Stanley.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW...

Saturday, August 19th, 6pm

COOS
HISTORY
MUSEUM



An Entertaining
Evening with
New York Times
Best Selling Author,
Amy Stewart

RESERVE
YOUR SEATS

A Fundraising Event for Public Education Programs at the Museum.

Langlois Mountain History Tour

July 15 is the date to join a tour sponsored by the Coos History Museum. Tour agenda is as follows: Meet at the Bandon History Museum on that Saturday at 10:00 a.m. for an hour visit, then board a bus for Langlois Mountain in north Curry County. We will travel up Bethel Creek Rd. through ranch country with views of the coastal plain and the Pacific Ocean behind us. At the intersection with Langlois Mountain Road, we will travel east to the end of the county road, and then west to our lunch stop at the Highland Woods, formerly the Millard School (a military prep school), where we listen to stories of the area while enjoying the catered lunch. Returning west to Langlois, we will stop for a bit of wandering through the Wild Rivers Wool Factory and the Langlois Market, home of the famous hot dogs. On the return drive to Bandon, we will take a short side trip to the New River Nature Center down New Lake Road. The tour will end around 4:00 p.m.

Tour participation is a benefit for CCHS members only. Not currently a member? Purchase your membership now to join in on this rare opportunity. Cost: \$30. Please direct any questions to the tour co-leaders, **Bill Mast** (541-572-3685) or **Anne Guerin** (541-348-2269) A sign-up sheet is available at the Coos History Museum front desk beginning June 1st. Payment over the phone (541.756.6320) or by mail (1210 North Front Street, Coos Bay, OR 97420) is available. Tour is limited to 50 participants.

Is it time to purchase or renew your annual membership? Make a donation?

Annual Fee:

- Student (\$15)
- Individual (\$35)
- Family (\$50)
- Friend (\$100)
- Benefactor (\$250)
- Historian (\$500)
- Curator (\$1,000)
- Business membership (\$100 or above)
- Donation \$_____

Membership has its rewards in shopping locally. Show your membership card when you shop at **Tru Furniture, Truffles!, Katrina Kathleen's, and Benetti's** to receive **10% off** regular prices.

At the Friend level and up, you can now receive an additional new benefit - membership in the North American Reciprocal Museums program with free admission to 880+ museums across the U.S. A link to the list of NARM members is posted on our website and available for review at our front desk.

Your annual membership becomes active from date of purchase.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Yes, send information about events via email.

Send information about volunteering and gifting.

If your VISA/MasterCard/DiscoveryCard is by mail: Card Type: _____

Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____ 3-digit Security Code: _____



Museum Hosts Hands-on Software Training

CHM played a leadership role for area museums by coordinating and hosting a 3-day PastPerfect Software training workshop on May 22-24 at the Coos History Museum. **Brian Gomez**, Vice-President, Operations, PastPerfect Software, Inc., came to Coos Bay from Exton, PA, to provide hands-on training for our museum staff and volunteers who work with our museum collection. **Katie Henry**, Heritage Outreach Specialist, Oregon Heritage, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, also joined the training and addressed the participants. Executive Director **Susan Tissot** invited Oregon Museum personnel who own the museum collections management/membership/donor software to join us and also benefit from the hands-on training. Nine organizations ranging from Brookings to Pendleton participated. This very valuable opportunity was funded by a grant from Oregon Heritage, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.



1210 North Front Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 756-6320
www.cooshistory.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
North Bend, OR 97459
Permit No. 48

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Board Members Depart After Years of Service

Ann Collins, a long-standing member of the CHM board, has retired but continues as a front desk volunteer and financial supporter of the museum's quarterly newsletter. **Sally Prouty** has also served many years, taking on significant responsibility in the Education Committee and heading up the ad hoc committee that hired the new Executive Director. **Darla Lesan** worked on the Exhibits Committee, the tax measure to support Coos museums, and volunteered to organize several special events. **Toni Poole** was actively involved with the Finance and Governance Committees, but now has succumbed to her wanderlust inclinations to travel with her husband. **Karen O'Donnell**, also retiring from the board, is acknowledged on the front page with her award. Their many strengths served to enhance the board . . . and they will be hard to replace.



Holly Yovino



Angie Duvall

Teachers Awarded Membership

Two local teachers have been awarded a complimentary one year Friend Level Membership to CCHS for their assistance in our education programs, the award made possible through a generous donation by the Friends of **Arnie Roblan**. **Amy Pollicino**, Education Coordinator, commented that both **Holly Yovino** (teaches 4th grade at Millicoma) and **Angie Duvall** (teaches 4th grade at Hillcrest) were happy to accept their passes in recognition of helping to develop the 4th and 5th grade curriculum and working with the museum over the years.

WATERWAYS is the quarterly publication of the Coos County Historical Society and sent to all members. Funding for this newsletter is generously provided by **Ann Collins**, who recently retired from many years serving on the CCHS Board of Trustees.