

# WATERWAYS

COOS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY • WINTER 2019-20 • WWW.COOSHISTORY.ORG

## CHM Welcomes New Executive Director

In early November, **Marcia Hart** began her leadership role at the museum, where her enthusiasm for the position became immediately apparent. Her vibrant and optimistic style is bringing change and new opportunities for the community to enjoy museum exhibits and activities. A resident of Coos Bay since 1976, Marcia's business background includes private, public, and non-profit experience. Formerly, she worked as Executive Director for United Way of Southwestern Oregon.

**Carol Ventgen**, president of the museum Board of Trustees, introduced the new hire with the following commentary: "Marcia has the skills, leadership capabilities, and community relationships that are essential for moving the museum forward, and your search committee is thrilled."

In an interview with a reporter from *The World* (11/14/19), Marcia commented, "I am honored to join and lead this tremendous team of dedicated professionals and volunteers at the museum. We want



*Coos History Museum Executive Director **Marcia Hart**, left, with bookkeeper **Terri Knight**. Photo by Steve Greif*

the community to know us as a welcoming community gathering place where the past, present and future come together. We are more than a place of collections and artifacts. We are a place of connection and life-long learning: A place to share intriguing personal stories of history, culture and heritage and to bring connection to the diverse people who live in this beautiful area we call home."

## Coos County Life A to Z

### Augers to Zithers: Treasures from the Coos History Museum Collection

By Debra Semrau

*Coos County Life A to Z* gives the museum the opportunity to showcase a wide range of its artifacts not previously displayed. The exhibit employs the alphabet to reveal a broad variety of objects previously hidden away in storage.

This is not a thematic exhibit, restricted to one topic. Instead, the exhibit uses the letters of the alphabet to identify and highlight lesser known objects from the collection that will appeal to all generations and that will stimulate interaction among museum visitors. Museum artifacts, photographs, and archival materials weave together stories of people of our region.

*Coos County Life A to Z* will

surprise viewers with unexpected "finds" – offering for contemplation and conversation a variety of meaningful possessions that have passed down from one generation to the next, and which carry with them stories of the owners' lives, the work they did, and the roads they traveled. With its orientation around the alphabet, this

exhibit is organized to allow some fun as well as to offer a look back at the past.

Opens free to members January 31, 2020, with reception at 5:00 p.m. Opens to public February 1.

*(Additional photos on page 2.)*

**Richard Whitwer, John Engles, Pat Cross, and Tom Orsi** prepare photos for the new exhibit. Photo by Steve Greif



# President's Message



**Carol Ventgen**

It's a new year and a new decade, and your Coos History

Museum is off to a great start – a new exhibit, new programs and events, all orchestrated by our talented new and continuing staff members and volunteers.

Curator **Debra Semrau**, assisted by a big crew of dedicated volunteers that included members of the U.S. Coast Guard, is installing "Coos County Life A to Z" on the upstairs bridge. Join us for the sneak preview and reception on Friday, January 31, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

"South Coast Tales," board member **Steve Greif's** ever-popular local history class, began on January

8 in the museum, continuing through March 18.

A group of engaging speakers are scheduled for the 2020 First Tuesday Talks lecture series, beginning February 4 with a look at the geology of the South Coast by Southwestern Oregon Community College geology professor, **Ron Metzger**. This popular series is generously sponsored by Al Peirce Company, and is free to CHM members.

The Second Sunday Free Day has become the CHM Explorer Club, to be held on the Second Saturday each month, due to a change of open hours for the winter. This fun program is sponsored by the Coquille Animal Hospital.

Not to be missed is the museum's big fundraiser on February 8 to be held in the beautifully elegant

dining room at Restaurant O. The event is dedicated to support for the museum's education programming. The amazing dinner is sponsored by **Greg and Barbara Rueger** so that all proceeds will benefit the museum. Tickets are available at the museum.

New Executive Director **Marcia Hart** is busy leading the museum through a strategic planning process, making plans for a new summer camp for children, reorganizing staff duties, and conducting a search for a new education coordinator, to name a few of her current pursuits. We welcome new staffer **Karen Quimoyog** who is handling rentals and events following **Pam Cottrell's** departure. Pam and **Joni Eades**, marketing staff member, left to pursue other endeavors, but both remain ready to assist when their advice is needed.

See you at the museum!

## Coos County Life A to Z

**Augers to Zithers: Treasures from the Coos History Museum Collection**



*Curator **Debra Semrau** has been leading the Exhibit Committee, **Joan and Steve Greif, Richard Whitwer, Kathy Sprague, and Jon Littlefield** (not pictured) as they plan a new exhibit for the mezzanine.*

**Dan Myers and Steve Greif** set up some exhibit cases.

*Photos by Steve Greif*

## Coos County Historical Society Staff

Executive Director: Marcia Hart  
Collections Manager: Debra Semrau  
Education Coordinator & Community Engagement: Ariel Peasley  
Store Manager: Valerie Caskey  
Rentals & Events Coordinator: Karen Quimoyog  
Visitor Services Assistant: Becca Hill  
Bookkeeper: Terri Knight

### Board of Trustees

President: Carol Ventgen  
Vice-President: Kristi Pennington  
Secretary: Anne Guerin  
Treasurer: Jan Hooper  
Trustees: Steve Greif, Ryan Hogan, Courtney Krossman, David Laird, Bill Mast, Tina Mendizabal, Arlene Roblan

### Museum Admission

Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 10-5  
Adults = \$7, Children 5-17 = \$3  
Family Rate (household) = \$17  
AARP, AAA, and senior discounts.  
Free admission to CCHS members, NARM program members, and active-duty military.

541.756.6320, [www.cooshistory.org](http://www.cooshistory.org)



# Executive Director's Note



Marcia Hart

## It's Your Museum!

Since the Coos County Historical Society was founded in 1891, it has changed to fit the needs of the community. Change is a dynamic process and for organizations to thrive, they must build strong cultures where all the people are moving in the same direction with a common goal. Initially focusing on documenting the experiences and accomplishments of the area's earliest white settlers, the Coos History Museum now aspires to be much more; to be a place where our community can gather, to feel at home and to belong, as well as providing endless opportunities for visitors to connect, engage, and to learn.

So, what is the museum's culture? And why is it important? I like to say culture is the heart and soul of the organization. It embodies the attitudes, beliefs, actions, values and language used. It's the history, traditions, procedures, policies, goals, strategies and even the community at large that contributes to creating the museum's culture. It's what makes us more than a pretty box on the waterfront. And it starts with our purpose and our mission. The mission statement defines our purpose, our reason for existence; it's what we do.

**Mission:** The Coos History Museum creates a better understanding of life in Coos County and the Oregon's South Coast, past and present, and our place in that life.

**Vision:** We aspire to be a welcoming gathering place and valued regional resource.

**Our Values:** The values we rely on are Integrity, Authenticity, Stewardship, Community Collaboration and Relevance.

Our highest promise to our visitors is for them to feel the Coos History Museum is THEIR museum, and it is "heart-fully owned" by the community. What this means is that we want everyone entering our door to feel this wonderful place is more than a warehouse, a collection of old items with no heart or soul. This is our museum and we want our visitors to be inspired to share and build community around the museum.

So, pass on our secret...This is YOUR museum!

I want to thank all our members, donors, sponsors and supporters for making the Coos History Museum possible. Without your support, we would not be able to keep our doors open.

## COOS HISTORY MUSEUM

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

Contact Valerie Caskey at [volunteercoordinator@cooshistory.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@cooshistory.org)

or call 541-756-6320 for more information.

## Recent Comings and Goings . . .

The beginning of a new calendar year brings a few changes on the museum staff, with the departure of **Joni Eades**, Marketing Coordinator, and **Pam Cottrell**, Rentals & Events Coordinator. Both needed to make changes in their lives and will be involved with new employment opportunities. Both contributed excellent work for the museum, and we were fortunate to have them.

**Marcia Hart**, Executive Director, has hired **Karen Quimoyog** as the new Rentals & Events



Karen Quimoyog

Coordinator, who will be working 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Karen is experienced in facilities management, event planning, non-profit donor relations, and fundraising. Another new person on staff, **Jamal Jackson**, is serving as the Rental Assistant. Jamal grew up in Coquille, graduating from Coquille High School in 2005. He enjoys the organization and responsibilities that he finds in his current position. Just hired, **Ariel Peasley** is the Education and Community Engagement Coordinator and will be profiled in the spring issue of *Waterways*.



Jamal Jackson

# Why Arago?

By Richard Whitwer

The original naming of Cape Gregory made sense since it was discovered and named by **James Cook** on March 12, 1778, the day commemorating St Gregory. However, the Cape was renamed in 1850 in honor of Arago.

## But who was “Arago”?

- When he was seven years old, he tried to stab a Spanish soldier with a lance
- When he was eighteen, he talked a friend out of assassinating Napoleon
- He once angered an archbishop so much that the holy man punched him in the face
- He negotiated with bandits, was chased by a mob, and broke out of prison
- He is - **François Arago**, the most interesting physicist in the world



And all this before age 23!

François Arago (1786 – 1853) was known for his part in the dispute between **Urbain Jean Joseph Le Verrier** and **John Couch Adams** over discovering the planet Neptune. In 1845, Le Verrier, a French astronomer, and Adams, an English astronomer, independently discovered Neptune less than one month apart, purely using mathematics.

As Director of the Paris Observatory, Arago had asked Le Verrier, a young astronomer, to explore anomalies in the orbit of Uranus - resulting in Le Verrier's discovery of Neptune. Arago supported naming the newly found planet after Le Verrier. He lost to Le Verrier himself, who wanted to remain with the standard nomenclature of naming planets after Greek and Roman mythology.

Arago was also a French mathematician, physicist, astronomer, Freemason, supporter of the French Revolution and a politician. After the French Revolution he was named minister of the navy and the army, and President of the short-lived Executive Committee which held executive power in France following the provisional government. He is one of 72 scientists whose names are inscribed on the Eiffel Tower. For over 40 years Arago was friends with **Alexander von Humboldt** who was a Prussian geographer, naturalist, and explorer of the Americas.

## Renaming Cape Arago

**William Pope McArthur** was a hydrologist and Lieutenant

Commander in the American Navy. He was in command of the first survey of the Pacific Coast for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey between 1849 and 1850. Commanding the U.S. Survey schooner *Ewing*, he mapped the West Coast from San Francisco to the mouth of the Columbia River.

Following the mapping of Humboldt Bay, which had already been named by a group of miners, the survey moved north. There he charted and mapped what was then called Fort Orford, naming the harbor for the schooner *Ewing*. MacArthur knew that Arago and Humboldt were friends and contemporary scientists, so changed the name of Cape Gregory to Cape Arago in his honor when he arrived there.

Unfortunately, McArthur

didn't survive the voyage and died of dysentery on the way home. He was buried in Panama, later to be reburied on Mare Island near San Francisco in 1867.

References:

1. Oregon Geographic Names, Lewis McArthur, 7th Edition, 2003
2. <https://skullsinthestars.com/2012/01/16/francois-arago-the-most-interesting-physicist-in-the-world/> François Arago: the most interesting physicist in the world! Posted on January 16, 2012 by skullsinthestars
3. <https://www.wonders-of-the-world.net/Eiffel-Tower/Pantheon/Francois-Arago.php>
4. <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=William+Pope+McArthur>
5. <https://www.obspm.fr/the-discovery-of-neptune.html?lang=en>



CHM volunteer **Richard Whitwer** gave a lively talk about the Cape Arago Lighthouse in December. Seventy-three people attended the discussion which featured a PowerPoint presentation with dozens of photos from the museum's collection. Photo by Steve Greif

# Membership Roll Call October-December 2019

**Renewed Individuals**

Archerd, Sandra  
 Arnold, Glennora  
 Black, Roberta  
 Blake, Kathy  
 Chilla, Barbara  
 Cummings, Heide  
 Dixon, Judy  
 Gerkman, Laurel  
 Gonzales, Linda  
 Hagge, Janet  
 Heap, Katie  
 Hodgins, Katherine  
 Kinnaird, Marshall  
 Koreiva, MJ  
 Lyman, Donald  
 Martin, Georgia  
 Messerle, Annie  
 Raper, Elaine  
 Shoji, Crystal  
 Sisk, Russ Ann  
 Tinker, George  
 Wilskey, Joanne  
 Worthen, Francine

**New Individuals**

Ferrara, Pamela

Kerriden, Kay  
 Luebberke, Elizabeth  
 Major, Vonnie  
 Wheeler, Mary Sue

**Renewed Households**

Benward, Curt  
 Boise, Ron & Linda  
 Chadwick, Jerry & Sarita Southgate  
 Clarke, Jim & Nancy  
 Close, Larry & Pat  
 Cross, Pat  
 Fischer, Suzanne & Al Rumsch  
 Graham, Steven & Debra  
 Graybill, Mike & Jan Hodder  
 Groben, Elizabeth  
 Hoffman, Jack & Lucy  
 Mahaffy, Bob  
 Maxfield, Lloyd & Kileen  
 Messerle, Ken & Lola  
 Miranda, Roland  
 Mohr, Ralph  
 Morrison, Leonard & Diane

Nowlin, Thomas & Susan  
 Ryan, Margie & Jamie Fereday  
 Short, Linda  
 Smith, George & Laura  
 Stickler, Barbara  
 Wahl, Jim & Kathryn Newhouse  
 Willis, Janet  
 Woods, Allen

**New Household**

Duke, Becky

**Renewed Friend**

Beebe, Deryl & Chris  
 Bloom, Melanie  
 Cornell, Charles & Barbara  
 Dieu, Ron  
 Fox, Rick & Joan Goodman  
 Gant, George T  
 Gehlert, Gary & Janet  
 Golder, Lee and & Sharon

Gould, David & Donna  
 Groom, Debra  
 Halvor, Paul & Marilyn  
 Hayner-Thompson, Jill  
 Helske, R.E.  
 Honda World  
 Hutchinson, Bill & Susi  
 Jansen, Nicholas & Joyce  
 Johnson, Monita & Gary  
 Johnson, Roger & Ellen  
 Kendrick, Wm & Joan  
 Mendizabal, Cristina  
 Metzger, Ron & Kathy  
 Mikowski, Judy  
 Moffitt, Christine  
 Moore, Christopher & Mary  
 Orsi, Thomas  
 Pennington, Kristi  
 Prouty, Sally J  
 Pruhsmeier, Karen  
 Recken, Maria  
 Recken, Sarah & Robert Sasanoff  
 Roblan, Arnie & Arlene

Rocha, Judy  
 Sharp, Gary  
 Slack, Joe & Claudia  
 Taylor, Barbara  
 Terwilliger, Nora  
 Whitty, John & Teri  
 Williams, David & Marilyn

**New Friend**

Hart, Marcia & Bob  
 Scavera, Jim

**Renewed Benefactor**

Blom, Don  
 Douthit, Nathan & Eva  
 Greif, Steve & Joan  
 Janke, Patty  
 Littlefield, Jon & Lee

**Renewed Historian**

Farr, Linda & Jay

**Renewed Business**

Koontz Machine & Welding

# Calendar of Events

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](http://www.cooshistory.org).

## FEBRUARY 2020

**1—First Saturday – Family Free Day and Explorer's Club:** Free admission all day with Explorer's Club from 10a.m.-12p.m. Sponsored by **Coquille Animal Hospital**.



**1—Exhibit Opening: Coos County Life A to Z – Augers to Zithers: Objects from the Coos History Museum Collection**

**4—First Tuesday Talks:** 6:30-8p.m. \$7 Adults/FREE for Museum Members.



Speaker: **Ron Metzger**, *Geology of Oregon's South Coast*. Sponsored by **Al Peirce Co.** with additional in-kind support from **The Mill Casino**.

**5, 12, 19, 26—Toddler Yoga:** 10:30-11:30a.m., \$7 Adults/FREE for Museum Members (Family level or above). Kids will learn traditional yoga poses as well as singing songs, playing games, and other activities that challenge their motor and social skills. Sponsored by **Jim Vick Auto Sales**.

**8—O'...The Places We've Been and the Places We'll Go!** An evening benefiting the Coos History Museum's Education and Life-Long Learning Program. Dinner and auction at Restaurant O. Tickets are \$80 per person.

## MARCH



**3—First Tuesday Talks:** 6:30-8p.m. \$7 Adults/FREE for Museum Members. Speakers: **Bruce Day** and **Wayne Schade**, *The Changing Waterfront*. Sponsored by **Al Peirce Co.** with additional in-kind support from **The Mill Casino**.



**4, 11, 25—Toddler Yoga:** 10:30-11:30a.m., \$7 Adults/FREE for Museum Members (Family level or above). Kids will learn traditional yoga poses as well as singing songs, playing games, and other activities that challenge their motor and social skills. Sponsored by **Jim Vick Auto Sales**.

**7—First Saturday – Family Free Day and Explorer's Club:** Free admission all day with Explorer's Club from 10a.m.-12p.m. Sponsored by **Coquille Animal Hospital**.

**18—Women's History Luncheon:** 11:30a.m.-1p.m. 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage. Details TBA

## APRIL

**1, 8, 15, 22, 29—Toddler Yoga:** 10:30-11:30a.m., \$7 Adults/FREE for Museum Members (Family level or above). Kids will learn traditional yoga poses as well as singing songs, playing games, and other activities that challenge their motor and social skills. Sponsored by **Jim Vick Auto Sales**.

**4—First Saturday – Family Free Day and Explorer's Club:** Free admission all day with Explorer's Club from 10a.m.-12p.m. Sponsored by **Coquille Animal Hospital**.

**4—2020 Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day:** This year the theme is Earth Optimism.

**7—First Tuesday Talks:** 6:30-8p.m., \$7 Adults/FREE for Museum Members.



Speakers: **David and Shirley Bridgham**, *The Shore Acres Story*. Sponsored by

**Al Peirce Co.** with additional in-kind support from **The Mill Casino**.

\*\*\*All events subject to change\*\*\*

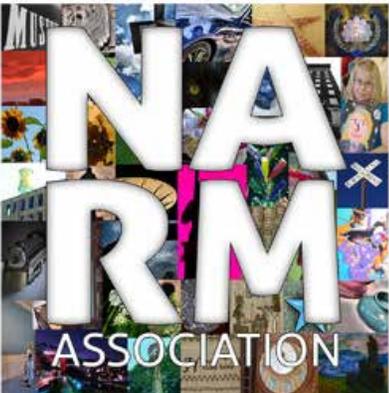
**Curtis Burkholder**, a recent North Bend High graduate who volunteers on Tuesday morning, decorated the Christmas tree at the entrance of the Coos History Museum in early December.

Photo by Steve Greif



NORTH AMERICAN RECIPROCAL MUSEUM

NORTH AMERICAN RECIPROCAL MUSEUM



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One of the many benefits of getting a Friend membership or higher is being able to gain free access to the 1,013 museums that are a part of that association.

More information is available at the museum or on the website:

**[www.cooshistory.org](http://www.cooshistory.org)**

✂

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

**Annual Fee:**

Student (\$15)

Individual (\$35)

Household (\$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** and **Katrina Kathleen'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 1,013+ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

✂



### Sand and Weed Removal

The museum was again blessed with volunteer labor in October in the form of seven students from the Destinations Stewards program at Marshfield and three adults from the Coos Watershed Association. The crew, along with CHM board member **Steve Greif**, removed sand from the front parking lot, removed invasive species from our east bioswale and parking lot islands, and trimmed blackberry vines near the south plaza. Thanks in particular to **Alexa Carleton** from Coos Watershed Association for arranging this annual clean-up event.

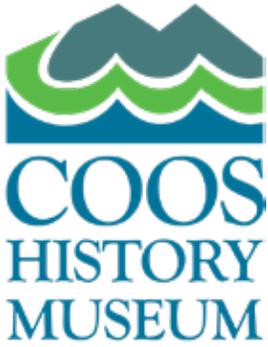
*Photo by Steve Greif*



### Interested in historical images?

Most images from the museum's collection are available for purchase.

Check our website, [www.cooshistory.org](http://www.cooshistory.org), for information regarding user and licensing fees.



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## COOS COUNTY LIFE A TO Z

Augers to Zithers: Objects from the Coos History Museum Collection

COOS  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM



Exhibit  
Sneak Preview and  
Opening Reception  
FREE to CHM  
members on Friday,  
January 31, 2020,  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

[cooshistory.org](http://cooshistory.org)

Exhibit Open to the Public: Saturday, February 1, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

A to Z will surprise visitors with unexpected “finds” from the museum collection. With its orientation around the alphabet, A to Z provides an eclectic showcase, allowing for a fun visual look into the past with lesser known objects that will appeal to all generations and weave together stories from our region. Exhibit Sneak Preview and Opening Reception FREE to CHM members on Friday, January 31, 2020, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Exhibit opens to the public on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

## WATERWAYS

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