

2023

THE WINTER ISSUE

# CROSSROADS

BY CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL &  
NATURAL RESOURCES

## FIRE VS. LOOSE

HOW WE SPEAK CHANGES  
OVER TIME—EVEN ON  
THE ATLATL RANGE  
P. 22

## LAYERS OF RESOURCES

DIRECTOR SCHWEND COVERS THE  
UNIQUE LAYERING OF RESOURCES  
AT CELEBRATION PARK P. 9







*Fun on the Celebration Park Atlatl Range!*



*Ab...*

*Ab...*





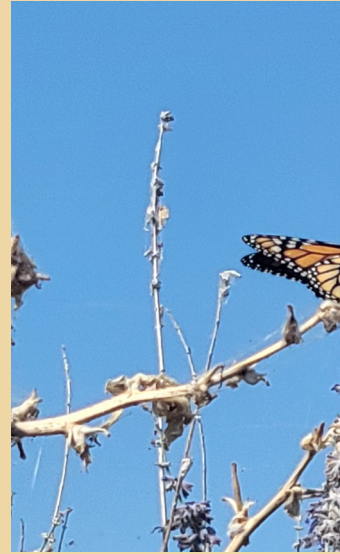


ve left, below: Experiential Archaeology is a great way to learn!

ve right: Alex and Shawn reset the bins for the next mock archaeology dig.







*Above left: Shawn didn't actually catch the butterfly like this—it's just a funny picture.*

*Above right: Monarch butterfly on a branch.*



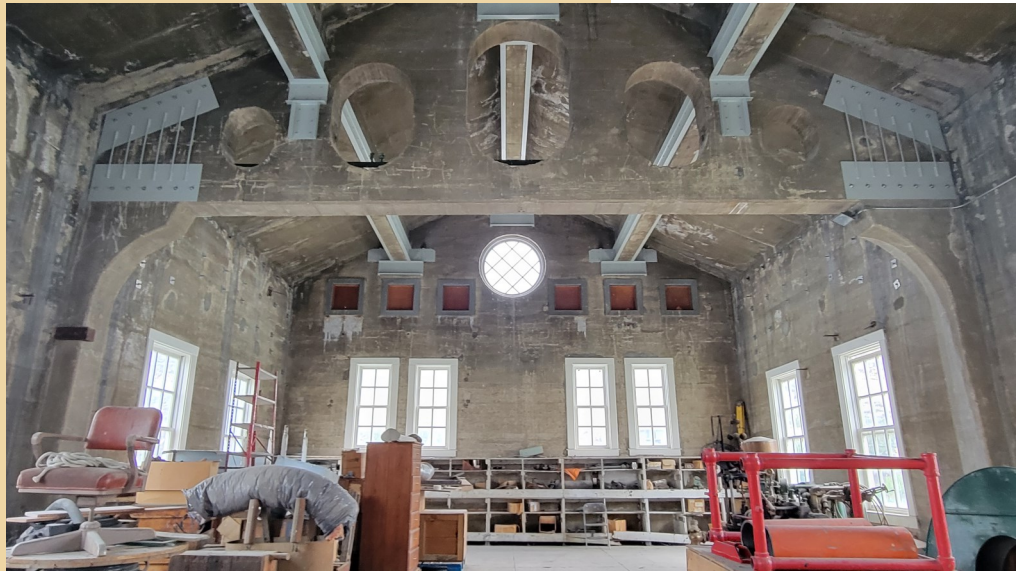
*Below left, right: Cultural Event at Indian Creek Plaza in Caldwell. Kids learned crafts from many cultures. Celebration Park was represented by Dylan Starry.*





use this bench to look

Russian sage.



*Above: Interior of one of the older sections of Swan Falls Dam.*

*Below left, right: Archaeologist Ty Corn takes Celebration Park staff on a tour of Swan Falls Dam.*









*Above far left: Director Nicki Schwend teaches staff about animal remains (bones) on the Snake River.*

*Above near left: Sgt. Roberts (Canyon County Sheriffs' Office Marine Patrol) assists a boater with a rope wrapped around a prop.*

*Above right: Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation's Kathy Muir and Kellie Joyce, along with Sgt. Roberts, joined Parks staff to discuss a Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) Grant application project (page 14).*

*Below far left: Monarch larva on a milkweed leaf.*

*Below left: Michael Tari's displays his re-creations of prehistoric sandals from various archaeological sites at the last Idaho Flintknappers event held at Celebration Park.*

*Below right: Alex Eells (Outdoor Recreation Planner) with Ellen Campfield Nelson and Aaron Mondada of Agnew::Beck Consulting at a public meeting for the Parks Master Plan (page 12).*





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EDUCATION | ARCHAEOLOGY | HISTORY

**9 FROM THE DIRECTOR***Celebration Park is arguably one of the most unique and awesome places you can have the privilege to visit; enjoying and exploring all the layers and stories that make it special.***11 DEPARTMENT UPDATE***Winter has been good to us - from the weather to fun projects, we don't take a break just because it's cold outside.***16 RC&D ANNUAL MEETING***The Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Council held its annual meeting in December 2022.***26 IDAHO MASTER NATURALIST  
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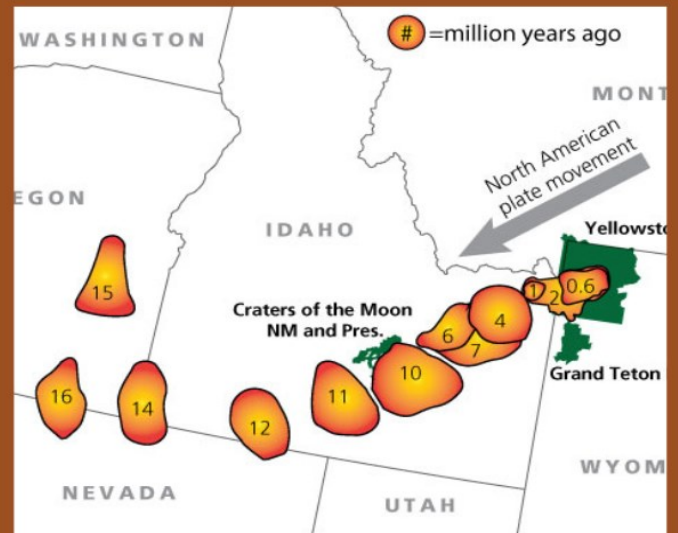
If asked to describe Celebration Park and the area around it, a first-time visitor would probably say it's a sagebrush desert along the Snake River at the terminus of steep brown basalt canyons. It has copious dark brown boulders scattered from one canyon wall to the other (most of which are bigger than the majority of the plants); muted tones of green, brown and tan everywhere you look; and relatively small, fast creatures that blur through the landscape almost too quickly to be seen. In other words, not much for all but a few to fall in love with: it's a desert along a river canyon with some brown rock cliffs.

## LAYERING OF NARRATIVES

It is not, in and of itself, an aesthetically pleasing place to most people.

The fact is, there are some places that you must “get to know” before you learn to fall in love with them. Celebration Park is just such a place. It must reveal itself to you to become desirable and it becomes increasingly attractive in direct proportion with your knowledge of the location and its incredible history. Once you share in the knowledge that makes up Celebration Park through space and time; once you can piece together the

*Above: Visitors to Celebration Park hike along the Snake River. Petroglyphs, waterways, and mining history—it's all readily available at Idaho's first archaeological park—Celebration Park.*

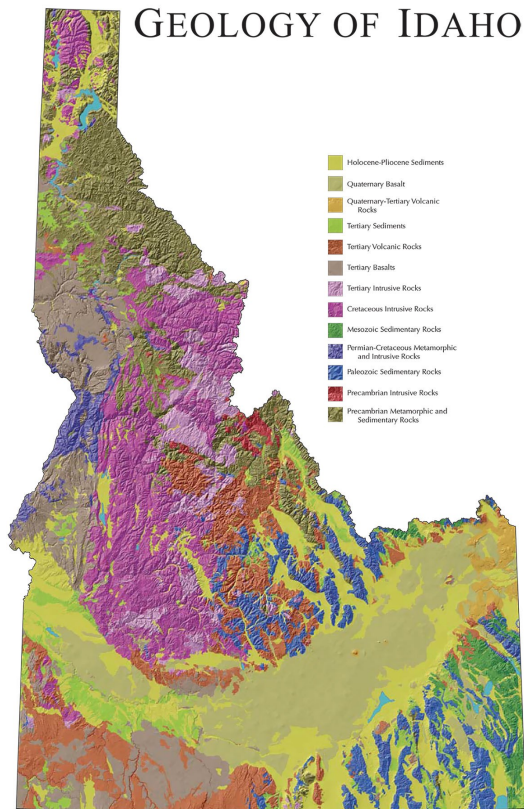


## 16 MILLION YEARS AGO - PRESENT

The Snake River Plain that spans across all of southern Idaho creates a “smile” that’s a mappable timeline of both ancient Lake Idaho (not shown) and the Yellowstone Hot Spot’s volcanic history of several super-volcanoes.

In the above image, the warm-colored spots show the approximate location of the previous volcanoes and their age in millions of years. As the North American tectonic plate moves gradually south-west, the hotspot remains fixed, making the hotspot appear to ‘move’ north-east across Idaho to its current location at Yellowstone.





*Note the flat yellow-green 'smile' across southern Idaho.*

revealed the ancestral use of pit-houses, a rarity in Idaho.

## Prehistory

Culturally, the ancestral people of southern Idaho belonged to the **Great Basin** culture area because the landscape, flora and fauna match that of the hydrologically defined Great Basin Area. Celebration Park and southern Idaho were occupied by the ancestors of the **Shoshone, Bannock, and Northern Paiute** peoples, typically living in small familial groups called "bands" that moved nomadically across landscapes and seasons according to resource availability.



*Outline of Great Basin cultural area.*

layering of its unique narratives into an intricately woven, complex story spanning millennia, you become truly attached. You become a steward, a storyteller, a member of an esoteric group of people who have fallen in love with the totality of narratives that is Celebration Park and you are forever hooked by its awesomeness.

The following is as concise an overview of the highlights of what makes Celebration Park so awe-inspiring once you get to know it for all that it is and all that it has been a part of:

## Geology

The **Snake River Plain** that spans across all of southern Idaho creates a 'smile' that's a mappable timeline of both ancient **Lake Idaho** and the **Yellowstone Hot Spot's** volcanic history of several **supervolcanoes**. More recently the cataclysmic **Bonneville Flood** (a mega flood) permanently and drastically altered landscapes from Utah, through Idaho, and along the Columbia River out to the Pacific Ocean, depositing basalt **melon gravel** across the Snake River corridor. Native Americans, who lived in the area for up to 10,000 years, marked these uniquely formed boulders with **petroglyphs**. These intricate carved designs can still be seen today at places like Celebration Park. Volcanic activity has also provided both ancestral and modern peoples the ability to use and enjoy natural hot springs, such as **Givens Hot Springs** where archaeological excavations



*Paiute woman making baskets.*

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; photograph, Charles C. Pierce (neg. no. LC-USZ62-104705)

Today, these people include the Shoshone-Bannock of Fort Hall, Idaho; the Shoshone-Paiute of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Idaho and Nevada; the Paiute-Shoshone of Fort McDermitt, Nevada and Oregon; the Northern Paiute of Burns, Oregon; and the Northern Paiute of The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Oregon.

Due to the nature of the arid, desert landscape with limited water sources and the geologic barriers of tall basalt cliffs, the native groups around Celebration Park occupied lands closely tethered to the Snake River. Because of this, the Snake River corridor contains significantly high proportion of **archaeological sites** compared with their relative scarcity across the Snake River Plain. In recognition of the cultural and historical importance of this stretch of the Snake River Canyon, it contains two areas listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**: the **Map Rock Historic District** (petroglyphs), and the **Guffey Butte-Black Butte Archaeological District**, which spans 14,000 acres in Canyon, Ada, Elmore and Owyhee Counties. In 1929, the **first directed archaeological excavation in Idaho** occurred when the Museum of the

*Continued on page 30*



## CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

# DEPARTMENT UPDATE: ON THE GROUND

### Campsite Signs

Outdoor Recreation Planner Alex Eells has been working hard to audit our Parks Department signage, including at Celebration Park. Part of this project included designating campsites with clearly labeled site numbers. There are seven designated campsites (with firepits) located around the main parking lot; W1-W7 (W indicating the west end of the park). Our newly renovated east end has thirteen campsites with firepits; E1-E13 (E indicating the east end). Twenty sites in total are now labeled!

Prior to these signs, visitors sometimes struggled to find our designated campsites. Campsite numbers will provide clarity to campers about where it's okay to camp, in addition to providing a place to display the tear off portion of the use-fee envelope.

*Above: Dylan Starry tirelessly digs post holes while Alex plays on his phone.*

*Center: Dylan watches Eric and Alex work.*

*Below: New sign at the Guffey Bridge on the Ecology Interpretive Trail.*

### Ecology Trail Signs

For many years, Celebration Park's "ecology trail" has been used as an educational route on certain field trip programs—staff use the trail to teach 5<sup>th</sup> graders about the ecology of wildland fire in the sagebrush-steppe, and students in grades 6+ discover the adaptations of native plants and animals that allow them to survive and thrive during winter in the high desert.

Now, visitors can take a self-guided tour on the Snake River Canyon Ecology Trail at Celebration Park. In November 2022, nine interpretive signs were installed along this 0.7 mile trail, highlighting the natural history of this dramatic, demanding landscape. *Read more about this project on page 28.*

*We are grateful for the hard work of the Canyon County Facilities staff who installed the signs. They were able to use a skid steer and augur to dig most of the post holes—but did have to dig several by hand due to the Park's notoriously rough, boulder-covered terrain.*





# CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

## DEPARTMENT UPDATE: IN THE OFFICE

### Canyon County Parks, Pathways, and Cultural Resources Plan

After a year of tireless work, outreach, surveys, interviews, advisory group meetings, public meetings, edits/revisions, public comments, and more edits/revisions we are happy to say that the Canyon County Parks, Pathways, and Cultural Resources Plan has been adopted by the County. Thanks to everyone who was involved, taking the time to participate or comment. Thanks also to our consultant Agnew::Beck and their talented staff.

This plan brought together County Departments, partner agencies, city leadership, land management agencies as well as representatives from various recreational groups to inform and guide the future efforts of Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources.

*Above, center: Parks Master Planners,  
Feedback from public.*

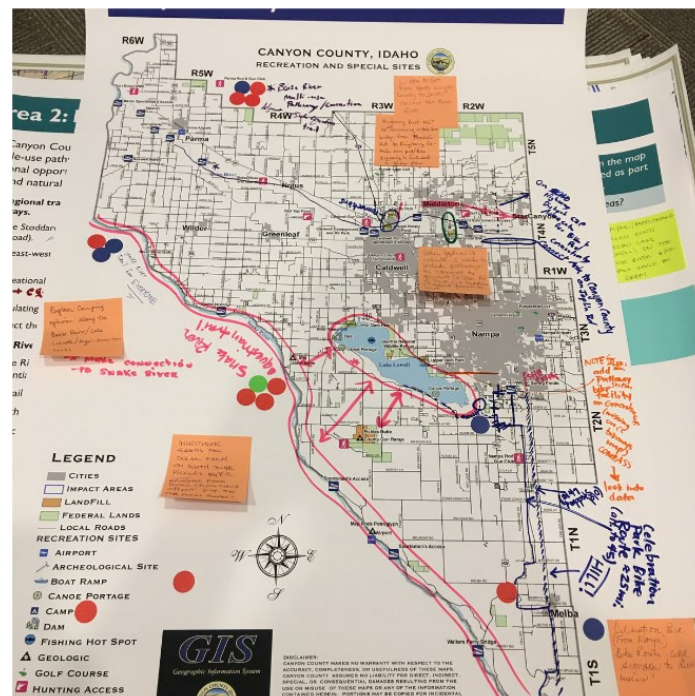
### Certified Interpretive Guide Workshop

Assistant Director Laura Barbour attended a Certified Interpretive Guide Workshop at the Boise Watershed Education Center this fall. This 32-hour workshop, offered through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), was designed to train and certify individuals who deliver interpretive programs or work at interpretive sites.

The fourteen participants represented parks and other agencies from across our region, including Celebration Park, Idaho Botanical Gardens, and Yosemite National Park.

These types of trainings allow Parks staff forge connections and share resources with staff of similar interpretive sites. It also allows us to learn new interpretive techniques and best practices which we can incorporate into our own staff trainings.

*Below: NAI Interpretation Workshop*





## CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

# DEPARTMENT UPDATE: EVERYTHING ELSE



### Stories in Stone Lifeways Cart

The Lifeways cart in the Canyon Crossroads Museum has been around for a number of years, and it's always served us well. It was made as an Eagle Scout project to display our artifact replicas for the Native American Lifeways program of the Stories in Stone field trip. There's always room for improvement though, and this winter, we made a few modifications in order to better serve our staff and students alike.

Changes include an additional shelf in the front to allow for more demonstrable "artifacts" (artifact replicas we use to teach kids). We also added a strip of LED lights underneath the front shelf in order to better see the displays below. We also added additional useable space to the unseen back sides of the cart.

*Above: The new Lifeways Cart on display in the Canyon Crossroads Museum.*

### Visitor Upgrades: Visitor Center Sign

One common complaint we receive is that visitors to Celebration Park oftentimes don't understand where the Visitor Center is. Visitor Services Specialist Dylan Starry sought to remedy this by making a sign from found materials: an old six-foot section of 2x12 board. Dylan built the sign and Canyon County Facilities aided in mounting it to the exterior wall.

### Atlats

Another of Starry's projects this year has been to improve and create more atlats. Ten thousand kids a year puts some wear and tear on atlats and Dylan created a new template and has cut many new atlats from hardwood that we hope will help them last. Interpretive Specialists get the fun job of decorating them.

*Center: New Visitor Center sign. Below: A close-up of new painted atlats.*





# GRANT STOP, WON'T STOP

## Making Progress with the Waterways Improvement Fund

The area now known as Celebration Park was originally developed as a boating access site in 1989, and as the park has grown, so too has the number of visitors. The Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation (IDPR) provides funding opportunities for local governments, to help meet new or increasing recreational demands, create new opportunities, and renovate equipment that has been, as we affectionally term it, “loved to death.”

Here at Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources, one area that has been loved to death is the original boating access facility, including a boat ramp and dock string. This year our department applied for a Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) Grant through the IDPR.

Celebration Park’s boating access site is over 30 years old and has been severely degraded and outdated over those many years. During the flood stage of Spring 2017, following a severe “snow-mageddon” winter, much of the river bank was eroded by high runoff, making it difficult to access the boat dock.

If funded, this project will greatly improve boater access and experience at Celebration Park, and will help us expand our capacity to accommodate ever-increasing numbers of park visitors. Canyon County Parks contracted with J-U-B Engineers in fall 2022 to develop a preliminary plan for the grant application. The proposed site improvements include: replacing

the existing boating infrastructure (including boat ramp, boat dock and gangway system), adding ADA accessible pathways from the parking lot to the boat ramp and stabilizing the shoreline where it has been eroded, and reconfiguring the parking area to improve traffic flow and increase capacity for motorized boater users.

Outdoor Recreation Planner Alex Eells developed this grant application and submitted it in January 2023. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by summer 2023.

*Right: the 30-year-old boat dock string at Celebration Park’s main boater access.*



### **Coming soon:** East End Fishing Docks, 2023

In 2022, we received an IDPR Cutthroat Plate Grant to install a new fishing dock at Celebration Park’s East End. The Cutthroat Grant supports the construction and maintenance of non-motorized boating access facilities for anglers. This project is slated for completion in spring/summer 2023. Sharing of our main dock by boaters and anglers has led to user conflict, and fishing lines have caused expensive damage to boat engines. Once this project is complete, the new WIF-funded dock at Celebration Park’s main boater access will be designated boater-only.

*Right: the new multiuse river path at Celebration Park’s East End (above), and the future location of a new fishing dock (below).*







*Above: our current dock system cannot adjust to changing river levels, leaving the gangways often underwater and inaccessible.*



*Above: boaters waiting to access the boat launch at Celebration Park (above); a line of boats at the dock (below).*

*Right: the winter of 2016-2017 saw massive amounts of snowfall across the Treasure Valley. More than three feet of snow fell in Boise over the course of the winter, including 20+ inches in January alone. During the “Snowmageddon,” or “Snowpocalypse,” roofs collapsed, cars were snowed in, and many valley schools took so many snow days that they had to adjust their schedules to make up for lost instructional time.*

*The intense snowfall was followed by widespread flooding along the Boise and Snake Rivers in spring 2017. At Celebration Park, the high water submerged hiking paths and river access points and severely eroded the already destabilized shoreline above our main boater access area. This damage accelerated the deterioration of our shoreline pathways, as well as the gangway-shoreline connection points. If funded, our WIF Grant project (p14) will ensure that the boat ramp, dock and gangways are accessible. The new dock system will be able to adjust to rising and falling water levels, and the shoreline will be stabilized with riprap to protect our boating access improvements from future flood damage.*





# RC&D Annual Highlights



*Outgoing RC&D member Paul Calverley looks on as members honor his years of service.*

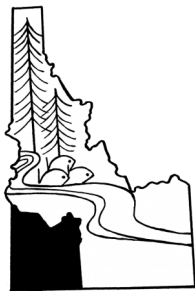
Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) President Tom Bicak said that it took him quite a while to figure out exactly what the RC&D did. After that initial learning curve, however, he came to realize just how beneficial the organization is. “Canyon County designated me as their representative on the Council. I had never heard of RC&Ds and during my first meeting I found out that I was Treasurer of the organization. It took a dozen or more monthly meetings to realize the boundless potential of this group,” Bicak said.

In his keynote address at the annual meeting, held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Bicak spoke on what impressed him when he started with the RC&D. “First and foremost is its value,” he said. “It’s a great value to the entities and organizations that take advantage of it.” Communities bring their issues, problems, and projects before the Council and the RC&D provides technical assistance, help with funding, and fiscal management to resolve issues and get projects done. Bicak went on to talk about what he considered the RC&D Council’s values. Courage and integrity top Bicak’s list. The RC&D gets things done that might otherwise seem impossible. Idaho Fish and Game and the YMCA partnered with the RC&D to complete extensive improvements for outdoor recreation at Horsethief Reservoir, including roads, power, restrooms, camping facilities, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and a

constellation of other issues. Tackling something of this scope required courage and integrity, ensuring responsible spending while getting improvements completed and the campground reopened for visitors. Tom also spoke about collective knowledge of the RC&D; smart and seasoned partners from many communities, agencies and organizations have an obvious synergism that spawns creativity while closing knowledge gaps in the process of resolving problems.







Growth was another of Bicak's core values. Congress created the RC&D program in 1994 and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) established the Southwest Idaho RC&D in 1995. In 2011, federal funding for RC&D Councils ended and the Southwest Idaho RC&D had to fare on its own. Most RC&D Councils across the U.S. have faded away, but the Southwest Idaho RC&D not only survived, but actually grew. Without federal oversight attached to funding the RC&D program, the Southwest Idaho RC&D was free to incorporate communities and organizations abandoned by other failed RC&D Councils. They acquired many new partners in south-central and central Idaho. It is easy to see the RC&D's growth in membership, but it is also growing in scope, taking on larger and larger projects, and helping organizations and municipalities achieve their goals in conservation and recreation. Bicak added, "We talk a lot about money, but our focus is not money. It is about getting the right solutions to the right people." In the coming years, the RC&D Council seeks to continue growing its membership and its scope.

This year's annual meeting also saw the Council honor retiring member Paul Calverley, who was among the initial founders and former president of the Southwest Idaho RC&D in the 1990s. For 27 years, Paul was instrumental in the RC&Ds success and growth. Bill Moore, the current Grants Coordinator for Canyon County Parks and the RC&D Coordinator since its inception, had nothing but praise for Calverley's arduous work over the years. Moore and Calverley both worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the USDA. Debbie Cook, who worked for the RC&D as an arborist in its early days, said that she had appreciated Calverley's kind demeanor and willingness to bring her



*RC&D President Tom Bicak listens at the 2022 RC&D Annual Meeting.*



into the organization and help her get to know how beneficial it was to the public. Current NRCS State Conservationist Curtis Elke spoke on his appreciation for Calverley's wisdom, stating that he (Calverley) is a fine example of what a conservationist should be. Calverley was moved by everyone's kind words and spoke about what he appreciated about the RC&D. He liked that the RC&D was apolitical – anyone and everyone can be involved and benefit from its value. The RC&D Council approved Calverley's choice of Mike Pellant as his replacement during the November 2022 meeting. The Southwest Idaho RC&D appreciates Paul's 60 years of service to natural resource conservation and thanks him for his dedication to the RC&D. ■



# FY2024 Canyon County Historic Preservation Grant Application Timeline

## February 21st, 2023 - Grant Workshop

- Provide instructions and overview of application process
- Provide advice and answer questions
- Applications will be available *after* this meeting

**February-April 2023** - HPC will offer advice, answer questions and review draft applications

## April 30th, 2023 - Applications Due

Via Mail: Canyon County  
ATTN: BOCC/Jenen Ross  
1115 Albany  
Caldwell, ID 83605

OR Via Email: [Jenen.ross@canyoncounty.id.gov](mailto:Jenen.ross@canyoncounty.id.gov)

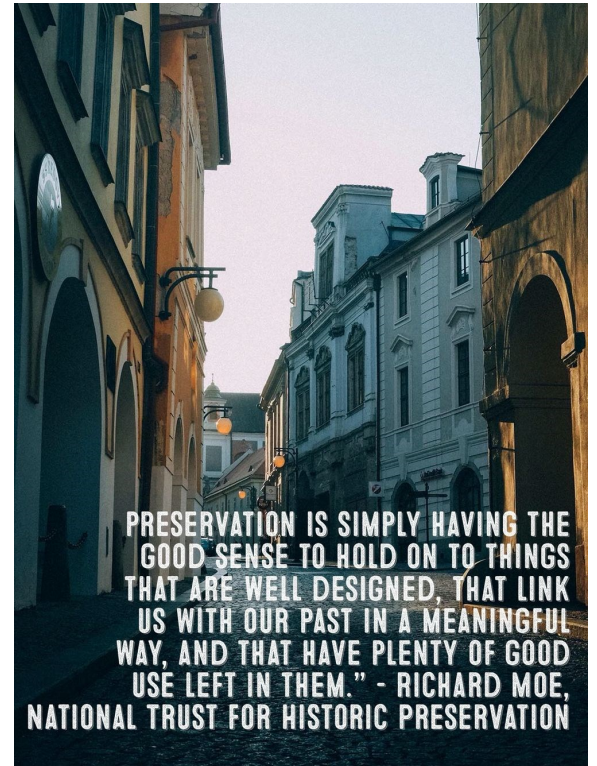
**May 9th, 2023 HPC Meeting** -HPC will review applications

**June 13th, 2023 HPC Meeting** - HPC decision on funding *recommendations* to the Board of County Commissioners

Upon approval of the Canyon County FY24 budget notice of awards will be announced. Agreements will be mailed after October 2023.

Contact: Nicki Schwend,

[Nichole.Schwend@canyoncounty.id.gov](mailto:Nichole.Schwend@canyoncounty.id.gov)





# SAVING LIVES

Opioids are among the leading causes of death in teens and adults. In 2021, Idaho saw 241 deaths related to opioid overdose. 152 of these were related to fentanyl—a powerful, synthetic derivative of opium that is showing up in our communities more and more.

Due to its rural location, Celebration Park is a long way from help: an ambulance can take 20-40 minutes to arrive, which would be too late in the event of an opioid overdose. Thanks to the cooperation of Idaho Department of Health and



*Above: New Opioid Emergency Kit in place in the boat shop at Celebration Park.*

*Below: Detail of Naloxone inside wall-mounted kit.*

Welfare's Division of Behavioral Health, Celebration Park now has three Opioid Emergency Kits, stocked with Narcan (Naloxone). This program is funded by the State Opioid Response grant and distributed through a partnership with Division of Public Health and the Idaho Harm Reduction Project.

Narcan comes as a nasal spray, which blocks the opioid receptors in the brain. Opioid overdose depresses the respiratory system, so users die from respiratory failure.

Parks full-time staff have been trained in Narcan delivery and part-time staff are scheduled to train this winter with Canyon County Paramedics.

Like all of our life-saving tools and training, we always hope we'll never have to use these new opioid kits, but Canyon County Parks is committed to providing the best service to visitors, including providing first aid and emergency response in times of need. ■



**Idaho Department of Health & Welfare**  
**Division of Behavioral Health**





# GOOD TO BE APPRECIATED

Education is one of the most important aspects of our jobs here at Canyon County Parks. But we don't just teach about petroglyphs—boat safety is a big part of what we do out here. During Canoe Science Camp, we teach kids about boat safety, certifying them in the Boat Idaho Boat Safety Course for paddle sports. This is done through partnerships with the Canyon County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). Sergeant Jason Roberts teaches the law enforcement section and certified parks staff teach the rest. Aside from Canoe Science Camp, though, we are also able to teach the course at other events and schools. Sgt. Roberts has been organizing paddle sports education classes at local middle schools.

The Boat Idaho Boat Safety Course has historically been taught from slideshows from law enforcement officers. This generally results in an eight-hour lecture and yields mixed test scores. To solve this, Programs Manager Eric Savadow and Visitor Services Specialist Dylan Starry have been creating lesson plans built around these boat safety chapters, modifying them to be multi-modal, hand-on, and most importantly, fun!

Jessica Smith, Boating Safety Training Coordinator for IDPR, has been using our lessons to get students out of their seats and taking a hands-on approach to learning.

To show appreciation, Smith wrote us this letter:



*"This essential information is retained much more than simply reading the provided material in a regular class."*





*I wanted to take a moment and offer my sincere “thanks” and gratitude for your contribution in helping me not only bring some life and excitement into teaching the Boaters Safety course, but also making the entire experience memorable. You and your entire team utilize an amazing skillset and pure educated technique in teaching, that the level of fun was put back into the class! What would have otherwise been a standard, run-of-the-mill classroom turned into nothing short of an event.*

*To your credit, I have implemented many of the styles, techniques and methodology you expertly showcased into my own classes and the results have been nothing short of wonderful. The way you employ a careful implementation of a “hands-on” approach is a “hands down” winner with all of my classes; as this technique not only engages the class, but no matter the age and skill set they are all having successful takeaways of safety of the water.*

*This should always be the goal of any instruction and I am seeing the results. I am especially relieved that the education that my students receive, is proliferating and increasing into a general understanding of what water safety really means, which translates directly into saving more lives.*

*As a good example, the instructive act of putting muscle memory activity into teaching the class, has made the necessary desired material “stick” in a tangible way. This essential information is retained much more than simply reading the provided material in a regular class. This dry and repetitive method of instruction is easily forgotten and disregarded in many classes, and that is anathema to our stated purpose, saving lives.*

*In my experience, and when I am presenting this safety class to a new set of instructors, I have successfully utilized many elements of your different methodology of presenting the required material. The students in my classes really enjoy the requisite interaction, and have commented that the energetic and memorable way of delivering the material makes them excited to teach the boating public at large these life-saving ideals. We are giving these instructors not only successful tools, but a new level of motivation and material ownership that will translate into better students in all facets of this teaching endeavor.*

*Starting early, at the “hands on” capacity lesson, then moving to the entertaining life jacket demonstration, and finally enhancing the energy level at the “Game Show” review, they are motivated! This all happens before the test! This strategy has changed the method I use of teaching the classes, and the level of memorability is off the charts.*

*For my part in teaching the class, I sincerely look forward to implementing even more of the ideas and techniques that originate from your presentation, and the entire department’s efforts, in all of my future classes. To this end, I wanted to extend a heartfelt “Thank you” with my gratitude for all of your help in our shared quest to keep boaters and paddlers safe and prepared before and after getting on the water.*

*Kind Regards,*

*Jessica*





# LOOSE LINGUISTICS

## SHOOTING FOR ACCURACY ON THE ATLATL RANGE

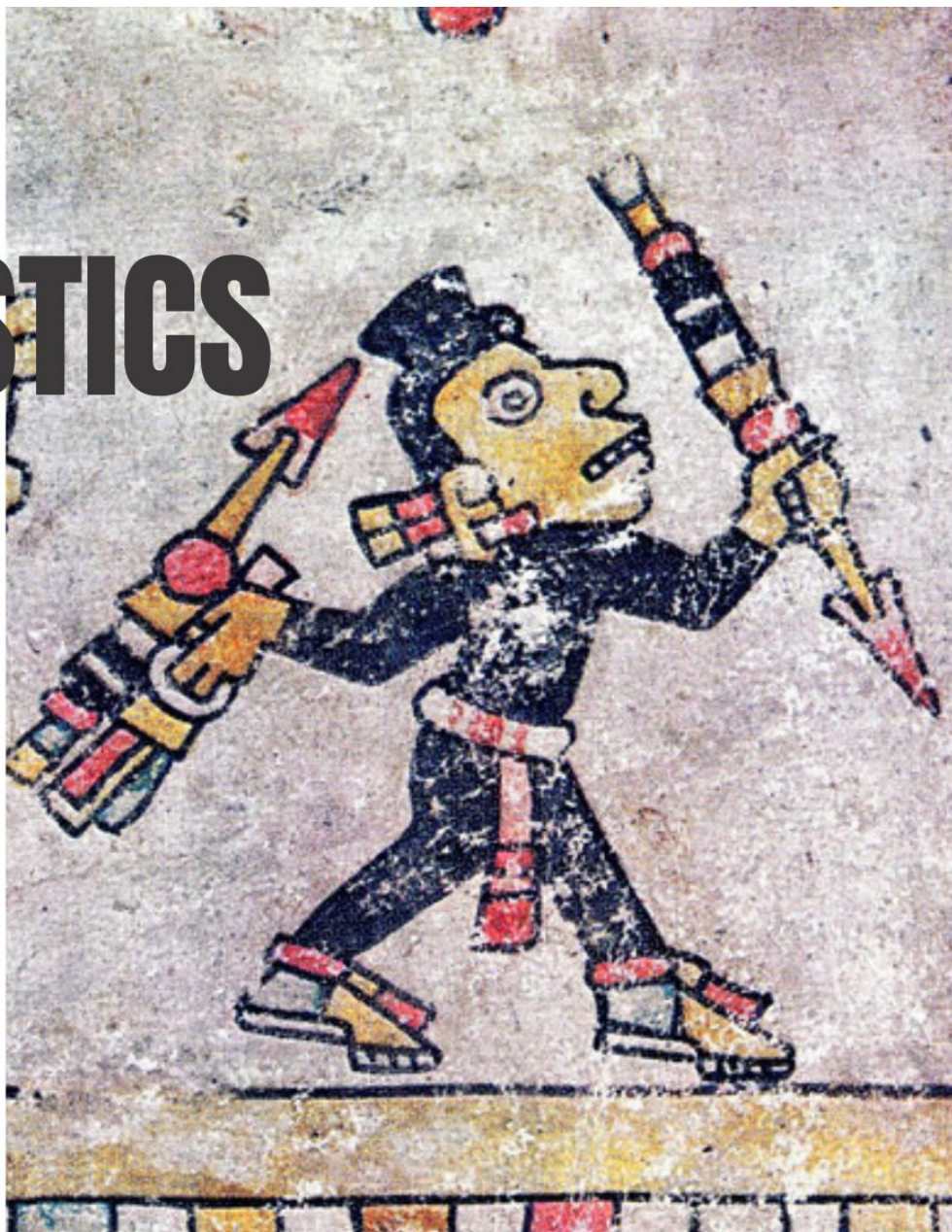
BY DYLON STARRY

**T**wenty-six years ago, I first ventured to Celebration Park as a fourth grader at Ustick Elementary School. I don't actually have much memory of the place, other than it was cold and I wasn't listening very well to the instructors. The one thing I do remember clearly, though, was the atlatl lesson. In my mind, the atlatl range faced the other direction back

then, toward the river, and I'm pretty sure the targets consisted of butter dish lids instead of the image of the mammoth we use today. But the concept was the same: use the atlatls to shoot darts at a target.



*Painting titled "The Fall of Tenochtitlan" depicts atlatls used in warfare.*



*Aztec image of atlatl user and darts. From 16th Century Codex Laud.*

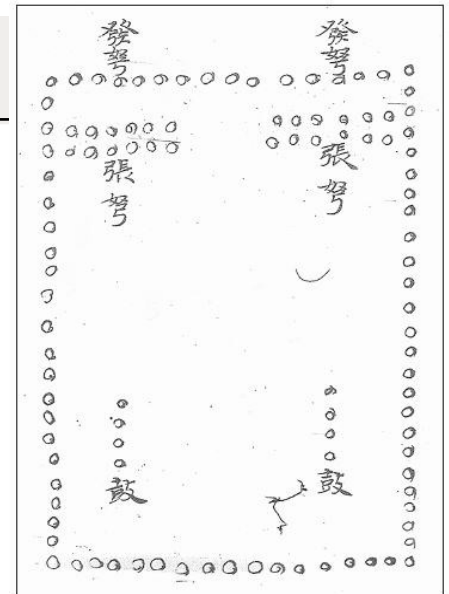
I've been told that staff used to give out a dollar to those that successfully hit the target, but I don't remember, and I certainly didn't earn one. But I pretty clearly remember hearing, "Ready, aim, fire!"

Now that I work here, I often teach atlatl or sometimes tag along to observe and hang out. Even when I'm not on the atlatl deck, if I'm working in the shop or picking up trash, I can usually hear the Interpretive Specialist yelling, "Ready, Aim, Fire!" and the students let go a volley of darts.

But why do we say "fire?" From what we can gather (from the internet), the word "fire" meaning "to discharge artillery or a firearm" comes from the 1520s, around the time when Europeans first obtained rudimentary firearms. The Song Dynasty in ancient



Right: A page from a 759 AD Tang Dynasty (China) text. Each circle represents a crossbow soldier—the front (at the top) is labeled “shooting crossbows.”



China was the first to create what we now call gunpowder in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, and historians generally consider the Chinese Fire Lance the first firearm. It's safe to assume that they likely had a term for their armies to discharge their weapons.

But armies and warfare have been around much longer than 1,000 years. In a Tang Dynasty illustration from the 759 CE text by Li Quan, volley fire formation was laid out for crossbowmen. This labeled the front line as “shooting crossbows” and the rear as “loading crossbows.” Note it does not say “firing crossbows.”

The first real mention of terminology for regiments of archers in English that I could find was in a 1545 book called *Toxophilus*. You might notice the Greek root word ‘phil’ in there, and yes, it means love. Toxophilus means “lover of the bow” (though, admittedly, the author did make up the word). The book was written by Roger

Ascham, a lecturer at St. John’s College, Cambridge and an avid archery enthusiast. He wrote the book to defend against claims that archery was not a sport for scholars, and it reads as a dialogue between Philologus (“lover of study” in Greek)

**And althoughe fuche a perfyte cumlynesse can not be expresse wyth any precepte of teachyng, as Cicero and other learned menne do faye, yet I wyll speake (accordyng to my lytle knowlege) that thing in it, whych yf you folowe, althoughe you shal not be wythout fault, yet your fault shal neyther quickly be perceued, nor yet greatly rebuked of them that stande by. Standyng, nockyng, drawyng, holdyng, lowfyng, done as they shoulde be done, make fayre fhootyng.**

Excerpt from *Toxophilus*, Roger Ascham, London —circa 1545. Highlighted are “lowfyng” (loosing) and “fhootyng” (shooting).

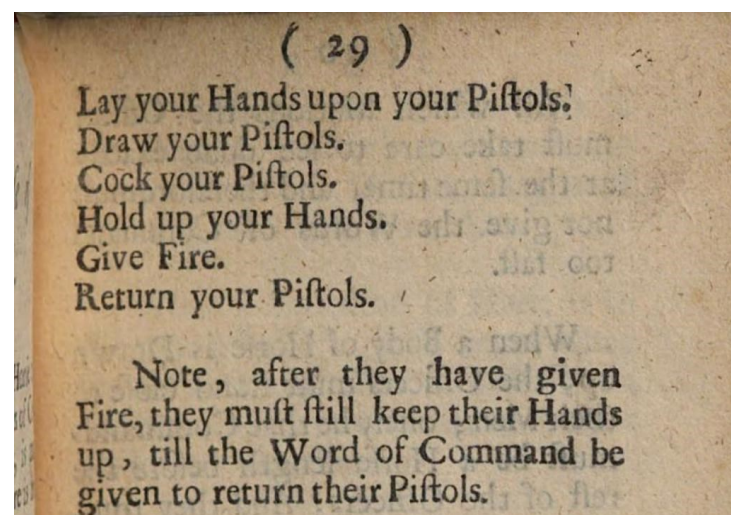
and Toxophilus (“lover of the bow”). It’s a difficult read, but throughout the book, there are 29 references to the word “lowfe” (“loose” – that letter f is an S) and its derivations. There are 404 references to the term “fhoot” (“shoot”). But there is not a single reference to the term “fire.”

Several other early texts exist and reference various shooting terms, notably the 1634 book by Gervase Markham, *The Art of Archerie*. Describing archery in detail, the book extensively uses the term “shoot”

and “loose” throughout. Another is *The History of the Conquest of China by the Tartars*, written in 1671, where it discusses Tartar archers “shooting” and “letting fly” arrows (and acquiring firearms upon entering and China).

The first recorded instance of the term “fire” to refer to shooting (that I could find online) is a 1680 work by Robert Harford titled *English Military Discipline of the Way and Method of Horse and Foot According to the Practice of this Present Time*. Throughout this book, the term “fire” is used to describe shooting rudimentary firearms, cannons, and other gunpowder weapons. The interesting difference here, is that this same book describes the use of crossbows, introduced to the English by the Sicilians and Greeks, but the word to describe their use is “shoot” and not “fire.” In fact, in its multiple references to bows and arrows and crossbows, the book uses “shoot.” In describing the ancient weapon, the sling, it doesn’t use “fire” either – it uses “cast” to describe their use. Harford seemingly goes out of his way to differentiate these terms.

Later-published works solidify the use of the term “fire” to mean shooting, regardless of the weapon. The 1858 book



Right: Excerpt from *English Military Discipline of the Way and Method of Horse and Foot According to the Practice of this Present Time*, Robert Harford, London —circa 1680



Deane's Manual of the History of and Science of Fire-Arms, the term is used throughout to mean shooting (though it does also use the term "shoot").

During my brief, rudimentary online search, I was unable to find any written texts about atlats and the language used during their use. For one, atlats are a much older weapon, coming into existence tens of thousands of years earlier than the bow and arrow. They were also used by many peoples rooted solely in oral traditions – they didn't write their histories down, or those that did used pictures, such as the image from the Mayans on the previous page as highlighted in the 16th Century Codex Laud.

Internet forums are rife with debate on the subject, especially in film critiques. In the Lord of the Rings series, we watch armies on all sides yelling, "Fire!" as their legions of archers send volleys of arrows into enemy ranks. Even in the movie Frozen, guards are ordered to "fire" on Queen Elsa with their crossbows. Troy and Gladiator seemingly got it right, interestingly – both use the term "loose" to command archers.

So where did we go wrong? It's a contentious topic. All we can say is that somewhere along the line, "fire" took over for everything else. On the Atlatl Range at Celebration Park, I still hear "Ready, Aim, Fire!" Maybe if we update the programs, I can make a recommendation – perhaps "fling" or "throw." Or maybe "yeet!" for the younger folks. Until then, though, I'll keep my opinions under the hat-latl. ■

The cross-bow used in Spain for the Sports of the field, killed, according to the Spanish author, "at a hundred and fifty paces, and *beyond*;" this establishes a range for that arm as used in the chase, quite equal in efficiency to the modern flint musket; but this range and certainty was still further surpassed by the war cross-bow, the killing range of which was two hundred paces, and *beyond*. There would appear to be no exaggeration in this estimate; for the testimony of the author of "*La Discipline Militaire*," is corroborative of the Spaniard, for he says, both the archer and cross-bowman, will slay a man at from a hundred to two hundred paces distance, *equal to the best Arquebuseers*; and in such manner even, that though covered with defensive armour, if it is not of the best, it cannot resist them. From experiments made at Annecy, in France, at the end of the last century, the arrow and quarrel projected by the cross-bow, fired almost horizontally, attained a range of four hundred paces, others,

\* The quarrel "*carreau*," (Latin *quadrellus*) was an arrow with a square iron head, called "*a bolt*" by early English writers, they were feathered frequently with brass.

Right: Excerpt from Deane's Manual of the History of and Science of Fire-Arms, 1858, where it uses "fired" in reference to the crossbow.



New atlats made by staff at Celebration Park for the atlatl range. Come visit if you'd like to fire... I mean, shoot them.





# New "Arti-fakes"

Our Director, Nicki Schwend, is also the department archaeologist, but where she's really made her name (at least in our eyes) is in what's known as experiential archaeology. This a fancy way of saying Primitive Technology, or using primitive methods to recreate tools, clothes, and materials in the same way people did thousands of years ago. Take a look at some of the things she's been making this winter!

Above Left: This is a saw made from the scapula of a fox or coyote. This would have been used by native people to cut reeds and grasses. Nicki said traditionally, the maker would cut off the protruding piece of bone in the middle, but it made sense to her to leave it as a guard against sharp leaves.

Above Center: This is a progression of a fish hook Nicki made out of the phalanges of a deer's foot. The left bone is intact, the middle is halfway finished, and the right shows the finished hook with yucca cordage attached

Above Right: This is a rabbit skin before it gets cut into a long strip. The line on the back shows how people would have carefully cut the strip out.



Below Left: Fibers processed out of a milkweed plant.

Below Center: Fibers are twisted by hand in one direction while simultaneously wrapping it around itself in the opposite direction.

Below Right: Nicki holds her finished length of milkweed cordage. Cordage becomes thicker the more fibers you include. This is a thin example.







The Idaho Master Naturalist Program has existed in Idaho since 2008. It serves to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to actively work toward stewardship of Idaho’s natural environment.

Canyon County Parks and Idaho Master Naturalists have had a great, symbiotic relationship. The department is a partner organization of the program, allowing volunteers to serve their time at county parks. Master Naturalists assist in the Story Trail program at Lake Lowell Park and have helped out with various projects at Celebration Park, as well. As partners, we also teach one of the classes on the ecology and archaeology of southwestern Idaho. It was only fitting that we certify in the program, too. Sara Focht, Education Program Coordinator for Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), coordinates the Master Naturalist chapters around the state, and teaches the lesson on interpretation and nature journaling. She said, “The Idaho Master Naturalist Program is a way to get people actively involved in conservation in their communities. Idaho Master Naturalists work with various conservation-based agencies and organizations to make real, on-the-ground impacts around them.”

Visitor Services Specialist Dylon Starry and Programs Manager Eric Savadow joined the Sagebrush-Steppe Chapter (one of nine chapters throughout Idaho) in the February 2022 cohort. Due to covid-19 precautions, the 2022 cohort was mostly online, conducting the educational lessons over Zoom. There were 16 weeks of classes covering topics such as interpretation, hydrology, fire ecology, ornithology, ichthyology, and more, all of which

*Above: Volunteers with the new pergola at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.*

*Right: Oolite formation at Prehistoric Lake Idaho in Onyhee County, Idaho, part of a self-guided field trip.*





will benefit Parks staff and visitors for years to come. There were also ten field trips – some self-guided, others with a guide – to various locations around the Treasure Valley, exploring the natural resources of the area, such as learning about raptors at Dedication Point



or even some ecology taught at Celebration Park!

To get certified in the program, students must complete 40 hours of education and 40 hours of volunteer

service (reduced to 20 service hours during covid years). As an avid outdoorsman, Starry spent his time volunteering with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) at various deer and elk hunting check stations providing accurate counting, as well as collecting samples to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease. He also volunteered at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, building a pergola in the expanded native garden. Savadow spent his volunteer hours helping out with entomology cataloguing at Orma J. Smith museum at



*Insect cataloguing at Orma J. Smith Museum at College of Idaho.*



the College of Idaho, collecting sagebrush seeds for IDFG under their Habitat Restoration Program, and educating youth with the Boise Watershed Center. To maintain their active status as Idaho Master Naturalists, Starry and Savadow will be required to complete 8 hours of education, as well as a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service, annually.

The department would like to extend a special thanks to David Bernasconi and Tricia Winters at IDFG, Bill Clark at Orma J. Smith Museum, Cindy Busche at Boise Watershed Center, and Tricia Matthews at Idaho Master Naturalist Program—Sagebrush Steppe Chapter for their help coordinating volunteer hours. ■

*Left: IDFG Biologists Mark Knowles and Phil Branigan enjoy lunch at a check station at Walter's Ferry.*





# A SAGEBRUSH-STEPPE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

## ECOLOGY TRAIL

There are nine new interpretive panels at Celebration Park's Snake River Canyon Ecology Trail. The ecology trail has long existed as an informal route used by park visitors and staff leading educational tours, but it has never featured any permanent signage until now. The 0.7 mile trail starts behind the green gate at the southwest corner of the park's main parking lot, follows the well-used river path to the Guffey Bridge, and then loops back down towards the Crossroads Museum on a narrow footpath that winds along a high bench through native shrubs and melon gravel.

The Ecology Trail provides an introduction to Celebration Park's unique natural history. It passes by relatively lush riparian habitat along the Snake River, climbs over melon gravel left behind by the Bonneville Flood, and traverses the upland vegetation typical of the Snake River Canyon's broader ecosystem—the sagebrush-steppe. This “high desert” ecosystem is widespread, overlaying most of the Great Basin, but it is also under threat. The sagebrush-steppe has shrunk to about half of its original size, and every year we lose approximately one million more acres of this unique habitat, home to more than 350 species of plants and animals. The signs cover information on important native plant species, the significance of water in desert landscapes, the historic Guffey Railroad Bridge and its connection to gold mining in Silver City, invasive species and wildfire in the sagebrush-steppe, and the benefits that this rugged-looking yet fragile landscape provides to us as residents and recreationists. The sagebrush-steppe is our home landscape, too.

*We're very excited to present the Snake River Canyon Ecology Trail to visitors. The trail can be accessed from the southeast corner of the main parking lot at Celebration Park, or from the eastern side of the Guffey Bridge pullout—or, ask us for directions at the Visitor Center between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM.*



*Parks Director Nichole Schwend inspects the first interpretive panel on the Ecology Trail: an overview map showing the trail route and highlighting interesting features along the way.*



## Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources



# School Bus SCHOLARSHIP

Our bus scholarship fund is supported by grants and by generous contributions from local donors. Each year, thousands of students from over 100 schools attend free field trips with Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources. Our bus scholarship program helps provide teachers, schools, and students with greater access to the unique educational opportunities offered at our parks.

**The bus scholarship fund is intended to help defray the cost of travel to and from the field trip site for schools that would otherwise be unable to attend.**

Bus scholarships are awarded via a drawing, twice per year, around May and November. If your school needs travel assistance, please indicate that you would like to be entered for the bus scholarship when you reserve your field trip online.

Questions: email  
[parksprogramms@canyoncounty.id.gov](mailto:parksprogramms@canyoncounty.id.gov)

If you would like to make a donation to the bus scholarship fund, checks can be made out to the Southwest Idaho RC&D Council (**SWID RC&D**). This 501(c)3 organization manages these donations on behalf of Canyon County Parks.

Your donation will help make field trips possible for schools and students across Idaho!

208-455-6022

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*Continued from page 10*



*Fish-hook with wooden Barb from Cave #1,*

(National Museum of the American Indian)

where it now resides outside the Crossroads Museum. Cupule stones, also known as **‘pit and groove’ rocks**, are considered to be the world’s oldest surviving examples of rock art. While they exist virtually everywhere in the world (except Antarctica), they are not exactly common. They represent some sort of shared human behavioral pattern, but are still a mystery as to if they shared a cross-cultural purpose. Recovered on the north side of the Snake River, close to Givens Hot Springs, it was probably subjected to geothermal water-related weathering, resulting in its unusual appearance and possibly its selection for cultural modification (2016, Boise State University, The Idaho Cupule Stone report). The College of Western Idaho’s detailed recordings of the stone reveal it to have 358 cupules, or rounded dimples, and a couple long grooves. It is not only rare, but also an ideal representation of a cupule stone, and a wonderful story of preservation.

## History

Some of the first outside explorers of Idaho were **fur trappers**, including some native **Hawaiians**, whose presence it was thought would make it easier to interact with local tribes. Three of the Hawaiians disappeared forever into what we now call the **Owyhee Mountains**, named so because “Owyhee” was the way Hawaii was spelled and pronounced at that time. The moniker associated with them has stuck and these mountains are part of the prominent landscape around Celebration Park.

Just south across the Snake River from the Park is the **South Alternate route of the Oregon Trail**. Also called the Snake River Cutoff, it was developed in the mid-1800s as a means to bypass dangerous river crossings, like Three Island Crossing.



*Swan Falls Dam—circa 1910.*

American Indian, Heye Foundation, sponsored Louis Shellbach’s work. Most notably was the excavation of **Cave #1** on the Southern side of the River between Swan Falls and Guffey Butte. Later dubbed “**Shellbach Cave**,” this site produced a plethora of fishing-related artifacts including fish bones, fish hooks, stone sinkers wrapped in cordage, basketry, woven matting, and a woven backrest. Shellbach Cave is just one of the 100 plus sites listed in the National Register nomination and the artifacts are currently in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC.

In 2015, Celebration Park received a donation from a local landowner of a rare form of petroglyph called a **cupule stone**. The stone was originally located near Popike Island, seven miles downstream from Celebration Park, between the Park and Map Rock. Due to the construction of an irrigation pump and road, the giant stone was almost lost into the Snake River forever. Thankfully, it was recovered with the use of a crane, and gently transported to Celebration Park



*Snake River Cupule Stone now located at Celebration Park.*

Most European settlers passed west through Idaho on either the main or south route without a second thought to settling in the territory. It wasn’t until **gold and silver** were discovered that people flocked to settle Idaho from both the east AND west. Celebration Park and the surrounding area provide plenty of mining history to discuss including numerous lucrative **ferry crossings** prior to the development of the railroads. Part of a spur on the **Boise, Nampa, Owyhee Short Line**, the historic **Guffey Railroad Bridge** was built for moving raw ore from Murphy and the **Silver City Mines** into Nampa for processing. Hydro-electric power enters the discussion with the development of the **Swan Falls Dam and Electric Power Plant**.

To add a personal touch to the mining history, one must also delve into the life of local legend **William “Doc” Hisom**, the “Hermit of the Snake River Desert” who lived and mined in the Canyons south of Melba from 1890 to the 1940s.



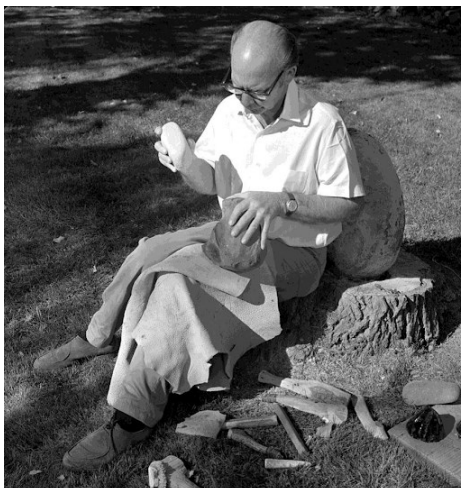


*"Doc" Hisom, at his homestead in the Snake River Canyon.*

notable places in Idaho (including the "Map Rock" petroglyph and Craters of the Moon) were featured in venues like the World's Fair and National Geographic (1924, **National Geographic "Among the Craters of the Moon"**). Also, don't forget he built the famous **Redfish Lake Lodge** in the Sawtooth Mountains!

Another famous individual that must be discussed for bringing attention to Idaho and archaeology was a man by the name of **Don Crabtree** (1912-1980) from Kimberly, Idaho. Don became an authority in prehistoric technologies and a self-taught expert **flintknapper** more specifically. His **experimental archaeology**, techniques, skills, analysis, and approach to studying **lithic technology** revolutionized archaeological approaches throughout the discipline and earned him the nickname "Dean of American flintknappers." In

addition, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Idaho. The Crabtree Lithic Technology Collection, containing 8,000 lithic pieces, research papers, correspondence, and photographic records resides in the University of Idaho Museum. Crabtree and the 30 plus students he directly taught went on to produce bodies of scientific work that educated students across the world on stone tool technology. In 1969 his work was placed in a special exhibition in New York's American Museum of Natural History. The Society for American Archaeology established the **Crabtree Award** in 1985 to honor Crabtree and recognize significant contributions to archaeology made by individuals who have had little, if any, formal training in archaeology. If you are an archaeologist, and especially one from Idaho, you know about Crabtree and his influence.



*Don Crabtree flintknapping.*

who lived and mined in the Canyons south of Melba from 1890 to the 1940s. Evidence of this mining and his presence still exist in rock house formations and structures that still litter the northern edge of the Snake River near Halverson Lakes.

Not far from Celebration Park on the east side of Swan Falls Road, eight miles south of Kuna, is a volcanic butte known as **Initial Point**. This geographically-prominent point was the place from which the territory of Idaho was surveyed by Lafayette Cartee in 1867. It marks the intersection of the baseline (east/west) and meridian (north/south) from which all land boundaries in the state of Idaho are measured. You can visit this site today, and hike to the top of the butte to see the benchmark monument embedded in the rocks.

The famous **Map Rock petroglyph** is significant not just geologically and archaeologically, but also for its historic association with the charismatic Western figure named **Robert W. Limbert**. With the nickname "Two-Gun" Bob Limbert due to his trick shooting skills, he can be credited in many ways for "selling" Idaho as a destination. The photographs, writings and taxidermy he created as part of his explorations and promotions of



*Now-famous photo of Robert Limbert with his motorbike in front of Map Rock.*

Despite the immense cultural and historical significance of Celebration Park and its surroundings, the entire area came very close to being lost forever. During the mid-1900s the Bureau of Reclamation was considering a large irrigation project dubbed the '**Guffey Project**' which would build a large 109-foot-high dam at Walter's Ferry to create a 34-mile-long reservoir stretching from Guffey Butte to Grand View and potentially irrigate 130,000 acres of land. If completed, this reservoir would have put the "Celebration Park" area (before it was a park) including the Guffey Bridge and the Swan Falls Dam and Power Plant underwater. The **proposed Guffey Dam** would have raised the Snake River



approximately 100 feet and become the new power generator, while irreversibly changing 34 miles of the Snake River Canyon.

As a part of the required planning process for this reclamation project, an intensive archaeological survey of the canyon was performed 1971. Over 114 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites were identified, indicating intense occupation and a wealth of potential information. In 1978, it was added to the National Register as the **Guffey Butte, Black Butte Archaeological District** previously mentioned, and in addition to the plethora of prehistoric sites, included the Swan Falls Dam, the Guffey Railroad Bridge, the old town site of Guffey, and an unknown historic settlement. Though this designation is an important recognition of the area's cultural significance to understanding southern Idaho prehistory, the National Register listing alone probably would not have been enough to save the area from an underwater grave.



*Morley Nelson and a Peregrine Falcon.*

While the Bureau of Reclamation pushed the Guffey Project, Idaho Power, which owned and operated Swan Falls Dam, took political and legal issue with the federal proposal to “recapture” (replace) Swan Falls. Years of hearings, committees, arguments, and alternate proposals ensued, including one joint venture that was finally taken clear to the Idaho Supreme Court.

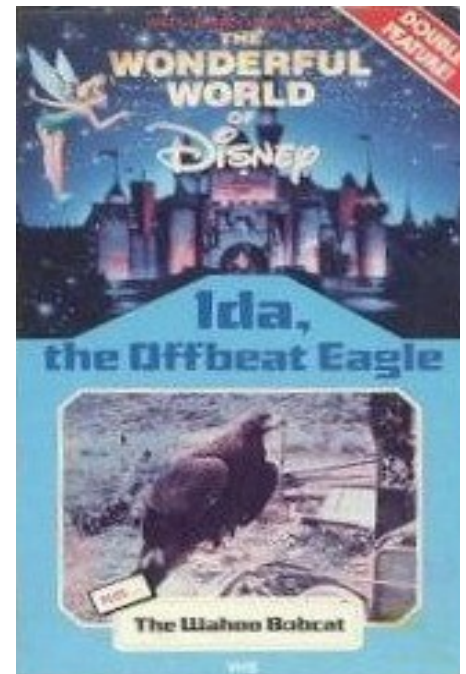
At the same time these proposals and arguments over reclamation were happening, a man by the name of **Morley Nelson**, had built the foundation for recognizing the area as the site of an incredibly dense populations of **nesting raptors** and generated a popular call from the public for the area to be protected. Due to his diligent raptor research, documentation and persistent

promotion, the area received its first layer of protection from the secretary of the Interior in 1971, followed later by expansions of its boundary. Morley worked on many films about the raptors with **Walt Disney**, Paramount Pictures, and PBS. Of note is Disney’s “**Ida the Offbeat Eagle**” episode that was filmed at “Celebration Park” in 1965 (before it was a park) and starred **Clifton Carver**, the man who once owned part of the land that has become Celebration Park. Morley Nelson served as a wildlife supervisor on set. His continued promotion culminated in Congress establishing the Snake River Birds of Prey as a **National Conservation Area** in 1993. This site is now known to have the densest population of nesting raptors in North America, and quite possibly the world, with over 800 pairs of raptors and 12 nesting species. In 2009, Morley Nelson’s name was added to honor his advocacy and the area is now known as the **Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area**. It is most likely the importance, promotion, and now the protection of the raptors that ultimately saved Celebration park and the 30-mile stretch to Grand View from being lost under a reservoir.

## Recreation and Education

Raptors, however are not the only birds to see in the area. Celebration Park is designated as **Blue-Ribbon Birding Site SW19** on the **Idaho Birding Trail** partially due to the fact that it lies within a portion of the Pacific Flyway, a major north-south flyway for migratory birds in the Americas, extending from Alaska to Patagonia in South America. This means, its not unheard of to show up at Celebration Park to see a “pod” or “squadron” of pelicans turning the Snake River white.

On April 24th, 1956, a Melba man named **Willard Cravens** caught a **white Sturgeon** weighing 360 lbs., 9 feet 3 inches long, and 7 feet 2 inches in girth setting a **world record** for biggest freshwater fish taken on spinning tackle. He did this at what is now Celebration Park. This incredible feat was used in numerous sports magazines to sell the Garcia Salt Water Mitchell Spinning Reel, with a picture of Cravens, his rod and reel, and the giant Sturgeon hanging beside him. Celebration Park is one of the most developed stops on the **Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail**, a 206-mile water trail stretching from



*Just one of the instances the Snake River Birds of Prey was featured on TV or film.*





*An advertisement for Garcia Reels featuring Willard Cravens and his record-setting sturgeon.*

broad range of academic offerings of interest and value to students, teaching professionals, Idaho citizens and visitors. Celebration Park also hosts annual events for **Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month** (May), including antique car shows, frontier demonstrations, atlatl competitions, and flintknapping demonstrations.

Celebration Park, once you truly get to know and understand it, is arguably one of the most unique and awesome places you have the privilege to visit; enjoying and exploring all the layers and stories that make it special. ■

Glenns Ferry, Idaho to Farewell Bend, Oregon. Anglers, boaters, and floaters enjoy the water routes from Swan Falls Dam to Celebration Park, or from Celebration to Walters Ferry and beyond. In addition to the water trail, hikers, bikers, equestrians, birder enthusiasts, campers and naturalists of all kinds find their preferred methods of **recreation** and enjoyment at Celebration Park.

Beyond recreation, Celebration Park has become a hub of learning and stewardship. Each year nearly 10,000 school-aged children attend **place-based educational programs** designed to meet state curriculum standards. Stories in Stone, the archaeology program, is the most popular program and is the most popular 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip in the Treasure Valley highlighting the geology, prehistory, and history of southwest Idaho. In 1997 the **Desert Studies Institute (DSI)** was established as a cooperative program between the Department of Anthropology at Boise State University and Celebration Park to provide a



*The Model T club's annual Melba Fun Run car show against the Snake River Canyon.*



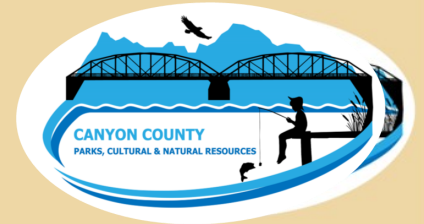




# Canoe Science Camp

Canoe Science Camps are learning-focused STEM summer camps for 10-12 year-olds interested in exploring the outdoors through science and recreation.

- Collect water quality data using scientific instruments
- Use the scientific method to learn about ecology, & hydrology
- Develop recreational paddling and hiking skills
- Receive paddling-safety certification



Trained adult guides in each canoe will ensure safety and provide a fun and supportive learning

This program runs Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 2 PM, and is offered at Lake Lowell Park in Nampa.

**Registration fee:** \$50/child

Inquire Today!

**ParksPrograms@canyoncounty.id.gov**  
**208-455-6022**

**Schedule:** Four one-week sessions in June & July.

**1st Session:** June 12-16

**2nd Session:** June 19-23

**3rd Session:** June 26-30

**\*\*\*July 3-7 OFF\*\*\***

**4th Session:** July 10-14



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# Spring Field Trips

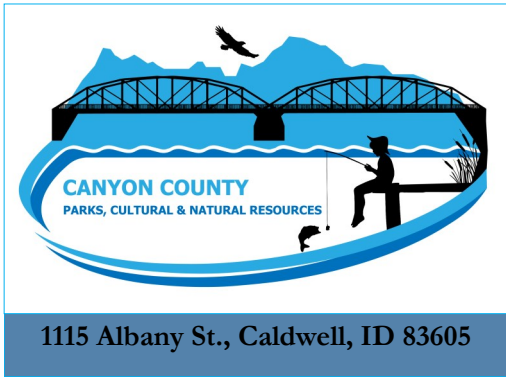
At Celebration Park and Lake Lowell Park

Winter Desert Ecology
Wildland Fire
Stories in Stone
Lake Lowell

Legacy Academy	1/31/2023
Roosevelt Elementary	2/2/2023
Boise Girls Academy	2/9/2023
Peace Valley Charter School	2/10/2023
Rangeland Society - High Schoolers	2/13/2023
Boise Valley Adventist	2/15/2023
Rangeland Society - College	2/16/2023
Boise High School French Exchange	2/21/2023
St. Mary's	2/23/2023
Whittier Elementary	3/10/2023
Central Canyon Elementary	3/17/2023
Greenhurst Elementary	3/20/2023
Iowa Elementary	3/21/2023
Park Ridge Elementary	3/22/2023
New Horizons Elementary	3/23/2023
Silver Trail Elementary	3/24/2023
Meadows Valley Elementary	3/28/2023
Whittier Elementary	3/29/2023
Hunter Elementary	3/30/2023
Garfield Elementary	3/31/2023
Gem Prep	4/3/2023
Chaparral Elementary	4/4/2023
Sherman Elementary	4/4/2023
Heritage Community Charter School	4/5/2023
Roosevelt Elementary	4/5/2023
Fruitland Elementary	4/6/2023
Chief Joseph Elementary	4/7/2023
Lake Hazel Elementary	4/10/2023
Sherman Elementary	4/11/2023
Amity Elementary	4/11/2023
Sage International	4/12/2023
Homedale Middle School	4/13/2023
TG Homeschool	4/13/2023
Shadow Hills Elementary	4/14/2023
Monroe Elementary	4/17/2023
West Canyon Elementary	4/18/2023
Park Ridge Elementary	4/18/2023
Midvale Elementary	4/19/2023
Park Ridge Elementary	4/20/2023
Vale Elementary	4/20/2023
Grace Jordan Elementary	4/21/2023
East Canyon Elementary	4/24/2023

Iowa Elementary	4/25/2023
Endeavor Elementary	4/26/2023
Andrus Elementary	4/26/2023
Sacajawea Elementary	4/25/2023
Sherman Elementary	4/27/2023
Van Buren Elementary	4/27/2023
Riverside Elementary	4/28/2023
American Heritage Girls	4/29/2022
Lakevue Elementary	5/1/2023
Birch Elementary	5/2/2023
New Horizon Elementary	5/2/2023
Hawthorne Elementary	5/3/2023
Tech Trep Academy	5/3/2023
Cole Valley	5/4/2023
Purple Sage Elementary	5/4/2023
Lowell Elementary	5/8/2023
Lincoln Elementary	5/9/2023
Whitney Elementary	5/9/2023
Trail Wind Elementary	5/10/2023
Wilson Elementary	5/10/2023
Carberry Elementary	5/11/2023
Basin Elementary	5/11/2023
Liberty Elementary	5/12/2023
Whitney Elementary	5/15/2023
West Canyon Elementary	5/16/2023
MOSAICS Charter School	5/16/2023
Cavalry Christian Academy	5/17/2023
Maxine Johnson Elementary	5/17/2023
Desert Springs Elementary	5/18/2023
Owyhee Elementary	5/18/2023
Castleford School District	5/19/2023
Reagan Elementary	5/22/2023
Nyssa Elementary	5/23/2023
Heritage Community Charter School	5/23/2023
Tech Trep Academy	5/24/2023
Lake Ridge Elementary	5/25/2023
Future Public School	5/25/2023
Sherman Elementary	5/26/2023
Silver Trail Elementary	5/30/2023
Nampa Online Virtual Academy	5/30/2023
Tech Trep Academy	5/31/2023
Union School	6/1/2023





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Return Service Requested



*Geese Over the Snake River, Celebration Park—Photo by Shawn Gray, 2023*