
COULEE CORRIDOR BYWAY BEAT

Volume 3. Issue 2

Coulee Corridor Consortium – Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway May 2014

Coulee Corridor Byway Behind the Scenery

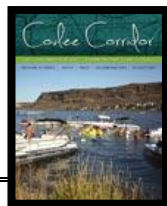
By *Tim Alling*

The Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC) applied for and received financial support for marketing from the Grant County Tourism Commission, City of Othello and City of Grand Coulee for 2014. Look for CCC ads promoting the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway in the 2014 Adams County Visitors Guide, a national quarterly publication called



American Road Magazine which includes a one page driving tour of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway on the americanroadmagazine.com website, and in the Eastern Washington Vacation and Travel Planner which has a special section on activities in the Coulee Corridor. The CCC hopes to add one or two additional driving tours of the Byway in 2014.

Among our goals this year are to produce a rack card and tear sheet map featuring various points of interest along the Coulee Corridor NSB to help visitors learn about the “Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail.” Some of the maps will be used as part of the CCC “FSI” Flood Scene Investigator education program for children participating in the 21st century after school program in Soap Lake and Ephrata. The biggest project on our docket is to develop community kiosks in several towns along the byway this year.



Flood Fest At Dry Falls

Mark Saturday June 28, 2014 for a Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway event worth attending. This is the day for the grand opening celebration in honor of the new interpretive panels that were installed this winter at the Dry Falls Interpretive Center.

Schedule of Events

8:30-9 AM Set up vendor booths, including the Coulee Corridor Consortium

10 AM Nick Zentner, CWU Geology Professor will speak about the Missoula Floods and the formation of Grand Coulee

12 noon – Grand Re-Opening Ceremony

1:30 PM Bruce Bjornstad, PNW National Laboratory Geologist, will discuss the many formations left by the Missoula floods

3 PM – Dr. Robert Weaver, CWU Biology Department will discuss native reptiles and amphibians

5PM Interpretive Center closes for the day

For information contact Chris McCart Interpretive Specialist at (509) 632-5214 or Dry.falls@parks.wa.gov

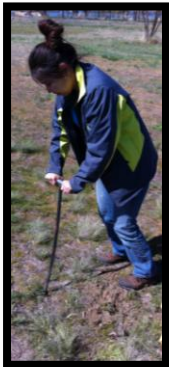
Job Well Done for CCCs Adopt-A-Highway Spring Cleanup Crew

By Mark Amara

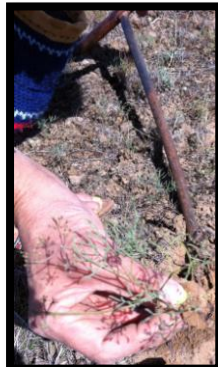
Seven willing Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC) participants gathered at Lake Lenore on Saturday April 12, 2014 to pick up trash on the CCC's Adopt-A-Highway route between Mileposts 84-86 on State Highway 17. It took almost 3 hours to complete the job but the scenery was extraordinary and the team was enthusiastic working along the lower Grand Coulee route between Alkali Lake and Lake Lenore so the time go quickly. Thirty two trash bags full of garbage was picked up along with countless larger items too large for the sacks. WSDOT provided hard hats, vests, and bags so everyone was clearly visible on the road. The next scheduled trash pickup event is Saturday September 27, 2014.



From left to right: Tim Alling, Birdie Hensley, Rick Heiberg, Denis Felton, Lowell Hensley, Margaret Amara. Not pictured: Mark Amara, taking the picture.



Experts use a specially designed metal stick to dig for camas and other roots



Root Diggers Collect Traditional Foods

By Mark Amara

One of the lasting traditions many people from tribes throughout the northwest practice is seasonal digging for native plants. Certain plants are important food supplements, have medicinal value or have ceremonial uses. Having the ability to find and collect these plant sources allows native peoples to continue utilizing traditional foods important to their cultures. This is the time of year to see people out on public lands digging roots like camas, lomatium, or bitterroot and others using special digging sticks or tools. People are friendly and many of them are quite willing to thoroughly explain what they are doing and how the foods are prepared.

This is one of many activities that can be seen on the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway.



Cleaning camas

Othello Crane Festival – A Guaranteed Success With Willing Partners

Contributed by Marie Lotz, Manager, Grant County Conservation District, Moses Lake

The Othello Crane Festival began in 1998 to highlight the spring return of Sandhill cranes (*Grus Canadensis*), our primary partners. In 2003 the Grant County Conservation District (GCCD) took on the role of coordinator for the Festival. Without GCCD stepping up, the Festival would not have taken place all these years since then. With GCCD staff leadership and numerous volunteers the Festival has continued to be a tremendous achievement, thus ensuring its legacy as a successful venture in Othello.

GCCD continues to coordinate organizational meetings, line up vendors, handles logistics, arranges speaker talks, finds agriculture guides, and prepares brochure write-ups along with being the public relations face and promoting the event through advertisements. With our leadership the Festival has been highly recognized throughout Washington and in neighboring states. The Festival has been an opportunity for GCCD to showcase good stewards of agriculture and their contributions to wildlife protection and habitat enhancements for wildlife.

Volunteers are a key ingredient to the Festival's success not just during it or the lead up to it but throughout the year. The first day of the Festival generally brings as many as 400 volunteers most of whom are local. GCCD and the Crane Festival now has support from the City of Othello, Othello School District, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Reclamation and many others.

In the past few years attendance has ranged from 1200-1500 though in 2014 there were 1600 attendees and, of that total, 818 people participated on a variety of field tours. The three-day Festival included an array of educational and family oriented activities, multiple vendors showcasing wares or providing information, had a food court, children activities, guided tours, live birds on display and lectures every hour by local

and regional experts. Talks in the past have included Crop Biotechnology, Pollinators of the Shrub-Steppe, Greater Sage Grouse, Ice Age Floods and the Channeled Scablands, Drones in Agriculture, Wolves in Washington to name a few. The diversity of wildlife in our area is matched only by the diversity of the crops grown here. Agriculture is also an important part of avian life in the Basin... Sandhill cranes feast on leftover corn from fall harvest, and other crops grown here provide forage for many other species.



A Little Known Fact About Soap Lake

Contributed by Jim Pritchard

Did you know that the ancient body of water called Soap Lake was a lot larger after each of the successive Lake Missoula ice age flood events that roared out of the Grand Coulee in the last 14,000-20,000 years? Back then, the lake was about 75 feet deeper and much larger than the present lake. Imagine the lake running out to just below Road 20 NW following the low points in the topography and traveling under the present location of the railroad underpass on State Highway 17, through the area known as Ephrata Lake and into the Rocky Ford Springs area. From there the last of the run off flowed into what is now Moses Lake.

If you look up at the basalt columns along the east side of Soap Lake, you will see the white high water marking the remnants of the old Soap Lake

Just another little known fact about Soap Lake that will amaze your friends who are not "ice age floods nuts."

GIGANTIC SAND PILE AT COULEE DAM

By Wayne Rawley, formerly with the US Bureau of Reclamation

There is a very large sand pile encroaching on the town of Coulee Dam. Many times I was asked what that eight-million-cubic-yard pile of sand really was. When you explain to anyone that it was waste from the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam the conversation is not over. Most people are not aware that concrete is a mixture of Portland cement, water and aggregates. Aggregates are a mixture of sand and gravel in the right proportions to make concrete.



When dam construction began back in the 1930s, the builders found a hillside that would allow the removal of all of the aggregates that would be needed, but there was one small problem. Mother Nature was not the least bit concerned about the proper proportions in the hillside for making concrete. As a consequence, a screening and washing plant for the sand and gravel was required to make the concrete for the dam. In order to get the fine sand and the coarser gravel the builders had to scrap almost as much coarse sand as went into the original dam. Eleven million cubic yards of concrete went into the dam and eight million cubic yards of waste ended up in the sand pile which totaled 19 million cubic yards that were removed from the area that is still known to the old timers in the area as the Brett Pit.

Present uses of the sand pile are limited since it is not suitable for concrete because it lacks adequate fine textured material. It does make good traction sand and is used by the Washington State Department of Transportation to sand area roads. It also makes good weight in the back of a vehicle if it is properly sacked. And finally, the sand pile is a great conversation topic!

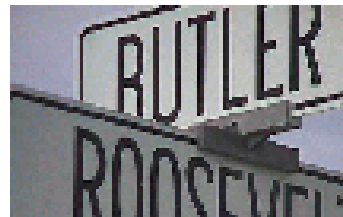
WHOSE NAMES ARE THOSE?

Contributed by Birdie Hensley

In the past few years new street names are popping up everywhere even in Grand Coulee. Names like “Geostar Drive” and “Aviator Lane” are examples.

Do you wonder what the future generation will think about the street names around the community? Will people pause to remember those who helped make Grand Coulee Dam possible and their names that are reflected by the street names? Do you wonder who named the streets?

There are some obvious choices for names like “Roosevelt Drive,” for Franklin D. Roosevelt the president that started the project and had a great influence on Grand Coulee Dam.



But do you wonder how “Grand Coulee Heights” came about? The co-developer of the area was Ida

Bartels, an avid supporter of Grand Coulee Dam and an influential lady who lived in the area for years. Bartels named “Grand Coulee Heights” to distinguish it from “Grand Coulee Center.” The latter community was developed by the continental Land Company of Spokane whereas “Grand Coulee” (“B” Street Area) was developed by Paul Donaldson of Ephrata. Ida named nearly all the streets as a kind of “Thank You” for continuing support of Grand Coulee Dam.



Here are some examples of street names in Grand Coulee:

MARTIN after Governor Clarence D. Martin
BUTLER after Major John S. Butler an engineer whose report proved to come at a vital time

BATCHELOR after Willis T. Batchelor, a Seattle engineer who helped promote Grand Coulee Dam

- - WOODS after Rufus Woods, publisher of the Wentachee World and whose family is still involved with the Wenatchee World

Byway Beat Briefs

Check out the Coulee Corridor web site at www.couleecorridor.com. Be a supporter and join the Coulee Corridor Consortium! Colorful Coulee Corridor pins and commemorative coins are for sale at the monthly meetings.

2nd Adopt-A-Highway Trash Cleanup event near Lake Lenore is scheduled for Saturday September 27, 2014. Meet at the Lake Lenore parking lot near MP 85 on State Highway 17 at 1 PM.

Ice Age Floods Features to Visit
Some of the features to visit include Steamboat Rock, Red and Green Lakes near Dry Falls, ripple marks near Wilson Creek, the Ephrata Fan, Lake Lenore Caves, Northrup Canyon and Jackass Mountain near Othello.

In order to learn more, consider joining the Lower Grand Coulee Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute. The group meets at the Soap Lake Senior Center on the second Saturday of the month at 11 AM. After lunch the group tours/hikes to one of the geologic features nearby.

Towns Get People & Places Map
CCC staff is continuing to hand out hundreds of copies of the popular People & Places Map of the Coulee Corridor. The free leaflet has a map and detailed descriptions highlighting 64 historic sites along the byway. Towns visited recently where the map may now be picked up include Almira, Coulee City, Electric City, Grand Coulee, Hartline and Wilson Creek. The map also be requested by accessing the Coulee Corridor website at www.couleecorridor.com or by calling (509) 634-1608.

Articles for the next Byway Beat
Submit articles to Birdie Hensley or Mark Amara by June 15, 2014.

Newsletter Editors
Mark Amara Birdie Hensley

Cut here and return with your membership materials

The Coulee Corridor Consortium wants your help and is asking that people consider becoming 2014 members of the organization which is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization with tax exempt status. Benefits of organizational membership include: supporting the Coulee Corridor Consortium, keeping abreast of and participating in new activities and events sponsored by the Consortium along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway, opportunity to help leadership by focusing positive attention on the corridor, participation in Big Event fundraiser each year, be placed on mailing list for quarterly newsletter, and receiving increased member visibility on the Coulee Corridor website.

- △ \$15.00 Individual Membership Fee
- △ \$25.00 Family Membership Fee
- △ \$50.00 Business, Non-Profit, or Other Membership Fee
- △ Other _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City; _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Web page listing: _____

Send applications and checks to Coulee Corridor Consortium, PO Box 123 Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Coulee Corridor Consortium Officers

Tim AllingChair

Mark Amara....1st Vice Chair

Ken Caylor.... 2nd Vice Chair

Birdie Hensley...Secretary

Barb Caylor...Treasurer

Get Involved With Coulee Corridor Consortium Committees:

National Scenic Byways

Marketing

Grants

Fundraisers

Newsletter

Memberships

Website

Contact the Coulee Corridor at www.couleecorridor.com

[Or call \(509\) 634-1608](tel:5096341608)

CCC Monthly Meeting Schedule – No host lunch and regular meeting which starts at noon

May 16, 2014 Casa Mexicana, 1224 E. Main, Othello

June 20, 2014 – Omak, place to be determined

July 18, 2014 – Connell, place to be determined

Aug 15, 2014 - Coulee City, place to be determined