

BHS Newsletter

January 2023

<http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm>

Mission Statement

The objective of the Brooks Historical Society and Depot Museum is to educate and stimulate an interest in and knowledge of the history of Brooks, Oregon,
and the surrounding areas.

North Howell, Fairfield, Gervais, Quinaby, Waconda, Parkersville, St. Louis, Lake Labish

Check out the BHS
Facebook page.



Lets Get Digital!

Recently we sent an email inviting all members for whom we have an email address an invitation to our meeting on January 7. If you did not get it, you are not on our list! Please email vickicunningham11003@gmail.com to get on our email list, and also provide your name so we can match it in our files.

This will help us keep you informed of special events, meetings, and any last minute changes to happenings at Powerland. You will be glad you did!

Thank You for Your Support

Our annual operating budget is about \$8,000 per year for lights, heat, insurance, fees and maintenance. Your continuing support is what keeps us going as a museum and as a historical society. It is time to renew your membership for 2023 by submitting your dues. The back page of this newsletter has all the info you need to renew, and to donate. We are a 501 (c) 3 organization, so dues and donations are tax deductible. So, do it now while you are thinking of it, and thank you again.

Holiday Sparkles a Success

We all enjoyed seeing so many happy faces on friends old and new as they drove through the Holiday Sparkles Christmas lighting display at Powerland in December. All museums share in your donations, so thank you! Our museum and caboose were decked in white sparkly lights with a sleigh full of gifts on the front deck.

Kids and parents who came in for cocoa and cookies in the Dezotell building could not stop talking about **that Grinch**, who knocked out lights, pulled plugs, stole gifts and otherwise tried to steal Christmas. The gingerbread man even chased him, but the Grinch came back night after night. We are happy to report that on the last day he became friends with Santa and the Gingerbread Man and promised to be better!



A Reflective Walk in the Woods

By Dan Groah

Our farm has a five-acre woodlot that is bisected by Woods Creek just before it enters the beaverdam soil of Lake Labish and joins the Little Pudding River. Seventy years ago, that woodlot was my playground. In the springtime, I would build a teepee along the creek using fir limbs as a framework and skunk cabbage leaves as a covering. From this site I would explore.

Playing Lewis and Clark in the woods never got boring. I would check out the old

boiler in his peppermint still. I wasn't allowed to witness the falling, but spent time watching Raymond cut the fallen tree into slices using a drag saw.

Sometimes I would leave our five acres and explore other people's woods along Woods Creek. Eighty-Second Avenue is a mile long mostly gravel road that runs between Labish Center Road and Rambler Drive. Woods Creek crosses this road four times in that mile. I explored the creek the whole way. Up the creek toward Labish Center Road, there were beaver dams. I never saw the animals that made them, but I sometimes saw the vee shaped wake of a muskrat crossing the reservoir behind a



Red Huckleberries—Vaccinium Parvifolium
by Walter Siegmund

growth fir stumps that were six or seven feet high. They were cut down in the 1920s or 1930s so rot was well advanced but springboard notches were still easily seen. Some had red huckleberries growing on the tops that were planted by bird droppings. All that is left of those stumps today is a cone of advanced decay about four feet high. Today, there are no red huckleberries to be found. Apparently, they don't grow on short stumps. These giant trees were all gone by the time I came along, save one which was a snag whose broken top was still taller than the second growth firs that grew alongside. Our neighbor, Raymond Jefferson, talked my family into cutting it down for firewood he needed to heat the



Western Pond Turtle *by Keith Kohl*
from Oregon Conservation Strategy.org

dam. Also, If I was quick enough, I would see a pond turtle jumping into the water. Sometime after I was in high school, someone came along and trapped out the beaver. Shortly after, the muskrats were trapped to extinction also. I don't know what happened to the turtles but I never saw one again.

In the early spring some of the banks of Woods Creek sprouted trilliums and little Lady Slipper orchid (also called Fairy Slippers). Today, I can still find some trilliums in March but I haven't seen any Lady Slippers in decades. Another flower that seems to have disappeared is the Flag Iris. These flowers grew more in the open than in the



woods. We only have some on the farm today because my mother transplanted some up by a barn and gave them some loving care. Little yellow Buttercups used to be a prevalent woodland flower and I did see some of those a few years back so may not be all gone. Another flower that is still around is the Foxglove. These pink and sometimes white pretties occupy our woods but are in mortal combat with the Himalayan Blackberries. Chittum trees once grew along a border fence with our neighbors. However, they peeled the bark from the trees and sold it in the 1950's thus killing the trees.

A mix of animal life has come and come and gone since I was eight years old. Only as a child can I remember seeing red foxes. I once heard and saw mourning doves. All I see now are flocks of Eurasian collared doves. I still remember the fellow who came to our door with the guarantee of making money by investing in nutria. We didn't buy, but some of our neighbors did buy but didn't make any money. Most of these animals

were released to the wild and they seem to inhabit swampy areas near water sources. In later life, when I came back to live on the farm, I found possums. I never saw one in the wild as a child but they are here now. Chinese Pheasants used to be so numerous that we would sometimes see one in our back yard. Not anymore. In fact, I haven't seen one in several years, but a few may still be around. Are more changes ahead? Probably. More fauna and flora are likely to be pressured by civilization as it has been since 12,000 years ago when the Clovis people brought down the first mastodon.

Exhibit Committee Plans

By the April opening day for Powerland, we hope to have an all new agricultural exhibit replacing the Hops exhibit, and featuring another valuable crop in our area. A new vertical timeline will track the peoples who entered our area from ancient times to now. Though the Japanese Farmers exhibit on loan from the Willamette Heritage Museum is returned to them, we plan to make our own exhibit on that subject and expand the Parkersville and phone exhibits. A major focus will be adding kid friendly activities around the museum. Come see us after the opening!

Upcoming Events

S.T.E.A.M'd Up 4 Kids is scheduled for Saturday, May 20. This event focuses on kids activities featuring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Our popular Quilt Squares activity will be there, plus building projects, rope making, old fashioned crafts, and more. Watch Facebook for specifics.

Welcome New Member

Pat Phelps of Vancouver

Meeting Time Change!

To minimize conflict with Powerland events, our meetings are moved to 9 am on the first Saturdays of each month. Next meeting February 4 in the Dezotell Building.

Brooks Historical Society

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Brooks, OR 97303

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9265
Brooks, OR 97305



Brooks Historical Society

Membership

- Adult Member ----- \$15.00
- Student Membership ----- \$ 5.00
(Elementary and High School)
- Business Membership ----- \$35.00
- Donation ----- -\$_____

Name:

Address:

City/State/zip:

Phone

E-mail

Checks should be written to:

Brooks Historical Society

Mail to:

PO Box 9265

Brooks, OR 97305

Videos, Books, & Research Collections for sale:

Visit our website at [http://](http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm)

[www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/](http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm)

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BHS Officers and Board

- President - Jim Rogers
- Vice-President - Sharon Shelton
- Treasurer - Dorene Standish
- Recording Secretary - Vicki Cunningham
- Correspondence Secretary - Marilyn Barner
- Board - Position 1- Louis Sowa
- Position 2- Leah Duda
- Position 3- Michelle Duchateau
- Position 4 - Carl Barner

Meetings

The Brooks Historical Society meets at the Dezotell Building at 9 am the first Saturday of the month.

Directions to the museum at Powerland Heritage Park: From I-5 - take Exit 263 -- go west approx. 1/4 mile to: Powerland Heritage Park, 3995 Brooklake Road NE, Brooks, OR 97303. We are in Building 6.

Interested in Powerland Heritage Park?
Visit antiquepowerland.com