

# METHOW VALLEY INTERPRETIVE CENTER

summer/fall 2015

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are halfway through our fourth season, and I'm finding it difficult to believe that only a few short years ago we didn't exist. Thanks to support from memberships, donors, grants and numerous volunteers, we have been able to move forward with our mission in ways we could not have imagined. This newsletter profiles some of our achievements.

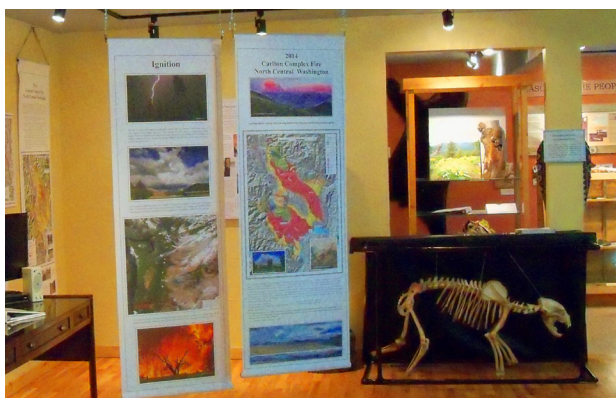
This year we find ourselves without \$6,000 in funding from a major grantor and face an even tighter budget than our usual \$18,000/year. Along with this challenge, we also have an opportunity: during the month of September, the Methow Valley Fund will conduct a crowdfunding campaign—"Give Methow"—to benefit of a number of Valley non-profits. Thanks to an anonymous contributor, donations made through this campaign will be increased 40 cents for every dollar, meaning that a \$100 donation from an individual will result in \$140 donation to your selected non-profit.

I'm asking each one of you to consider taking advantage of this opportunity on behalf of the Methow Valley Interpretive Center and other worthy non-profits. We will share more information on this exciting development as the "Give Methow" campaign launch draws closer.

*Carolyn G. Schmekel*

Carolyn Schmekel, Executive Director

## THIS YEAR'S MAIN EXHIBIT



We started with flowers and birds in 2012. The following year, we featured wolves, with a beautiful exhibit from Seattle's Burke Museum. In July 2014, another Burke exhibit—focused on the foods of the Salish tribal people—arrived, but the 350,000-acre Carlton Complex fire prevented many visitors from coming. This year, the Board of Directors decided that a natural event of such magnitude deserved to be dealt with in a way that would allow people to see wildfires in the Methow Valley as part of a greater system. The current exhibit, "The Carlton Complex Conflagration," took four months to assemble. Our many partners in this project are listed on the back page.

The continued stresses related to the Carlton Complex Fire and the potential for future huge wildfires require us to support each other as we pick up the pieces both materially and emotionally. As educators, we try to offer our visitors some perspective on and, hopefully, wisdom going forward.

## METHOW VALLEY NATIVE GARDEN

If you've driven past TwispWorks since spring, you probably noticed an amazing transformation as native shrubs and grasses grew from last year's low mounds to astonishing heights. Flowers and berries are abundant, as are happy pollinators enjoying the fruits of our labors. The expanding sub-alpine section exhibits burned tree "snags" and a nearly completed water feature. Liberty Bell High School students Gavin & Reid Wengard (lower right) made us a beautiful gate in the school's advanced Welding class!

Guests stroll the pathways to find native plants that might be attractive as landscape additions around their homes or have just enjoyed a quiet walk through the garden on their way to the post office. Yes, we ARE working on a Garden Guide that will help as visitors locate and identify various plant species!



## SEASONS OF THE PEOPLE

The heart of the MVIC is found in the story of the Valley's original inhabitants—the Met-How tribe. We have developed treasured relationships with the descendants of these people and always seek to honor who they were, as original inhabitants, and who they are today.

This year we began a series called "Ancestral Skills," intended to give participants a greater connection with the land and appreciation for the skill it took the Met-How to create a sustainable life in the valley. Each Friday this summer, we've held a very popular class in making pine-needle baskets, taught by MaryAnn Larson. The joy of getting to know one another as we use an abundant resource to create useful and beautiful basket is another way of connecting with the seasons...and with each other.



## RAFFLE!

We are raffling off a beautiful hand-painted, tanned elk robe to raise funds for operating costs at the MVIC. \$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets gives you a chance to win this fine example of Plains Indian art. For tickets, call 509-997-4904





PO BOX 771  
TWISP, WA 98856



## WHAT ELSE HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

**900**  
annual visitors

**200**  
school children

new partnerships  
events

exhibit additions

educational  
opportunities

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING  
AGENCIES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE CARLTON COMPLEX FIRE  
PROGRAM AND EXHIBIT**



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
OF WASHINGTON STATE  
*your window to healthy lands*



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**



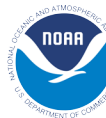
NRCS Natural Resources  
Conservation Service



**FEMA**



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers®



## SUPPORT THE METHOW VALLEY INTERPRETIVE CENTER

☐ I would like to become an **annual member** (circle one)

**\$25 (individual) \$45 (family) \$75 (patron) \$150 (exhibit sponsor) \$Over 500 (major contributor)**

☐ I would like to become a **sustaining member\*** and make a monthly donation of \$\_\_\_\_ (e.g., \$10/month)

*Please fill in and mail to PO Box 771, Twisp, WA 98856 **or** stop by during open hours! 210 5th St., Twisp on the TwispWorks Campus*

**Questions? Contact Us! • 509-997-4904 • [mvinterpretivecenter@methownet.com](mailto:mvinterpretivecenter@methownet.com) •  **

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**\*To become a sustaining member, please mail a voided check to the address above. An MVIC board member will follow up with you by phone before making any debits to your account. All debits will be made on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

**\*\*Please make all checks out to the Methow Field Institute**