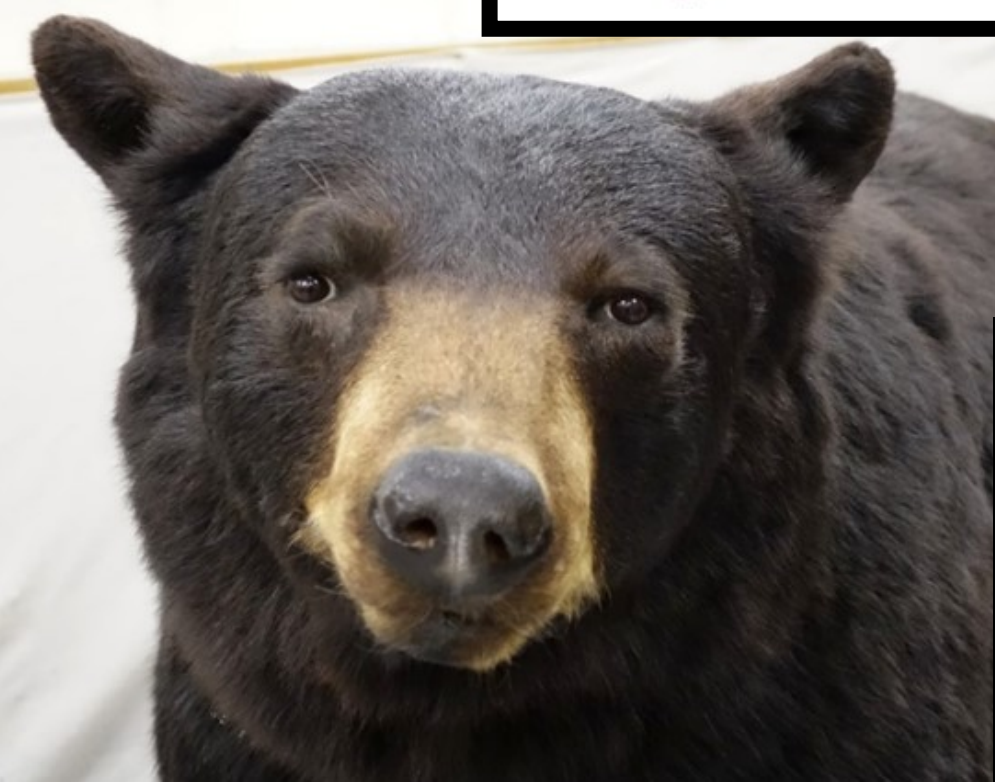




ORMA J. SMITH
**MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY**

THE COLLEGE
of IDAHO 



**Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2015**

**July 1, 2014 to
June 30, 2015**

From the Director

"The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History will be the premier collections-based environmental education and natural history resource in our region. The Museum's programs and resources will be integrated into the educational programs of the college to help meet the educational needs of students at The College of Idaho and provide outreach to the general public."

"The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History seeks to instill an awareness of the natural world through the educational programs of The College of Idaho, provide public service, and serve the general and research public by holding in trust collections of natural history objects for this and future generations. The Museum serves students and the general public by offering tours, interpretive displays, and other educational programs that foster life-long learning by all who visit."



This Annual Report provides an overview of some of the many activities by which the Museum carries out the mission and vision expressed by these quotations. The Report covers Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015). I hope you find it interesting and useful.

The Museum is an integral part of The College of Idaho, which works with the Museum's Board of Directors to provide oversight and help the Museum to meet its stated mission. In addition to activities benefiting the College, the Museum is deeply involved in educating students from kindergarten through college. It offers presentations, tours, field trips, workshops, and other activities for educational and student organizations.

The Museum is also actively involved in public outreach and education for adults through activities such as presentations at scientific conferences and cooperating with other organizations in local activities such as BioBlitz, Bug Day, and the annual Butterfly Count. During the last year, a Museum Curator led nationally recognized birding activities for blind and visually impaired individuals.

Museum staff are actively involved in research programs dedicated to documenting and understanding past and present biodiversity through fieldwork, development and maintenance of collections, professional interactions with colleagues worldwide, and publications in scientific journals.

Other exciting developments in the last year include the beginning of a project that will eventually convert the Museum's records to the SPECIFY database, starting a major re-organization of the Museum's library, and upgrades to the gift shop that allow it to accept credit cards. We are working to make it possible for members of the general public to purchase items from the gift shop on-line.

Except for a small number of student interns, the Museum is an all-volunteer organization that relies on donations, grants, and contracts. Our needs are great. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to donate time, money, or goods and services.

We hope you will visit us. The Museum is in the basement of Boone Hall on the campus of The College of Idaho (corner of Fillmore & 20th Streets, Caldwell, Idaho). We're open Friday afternoons from 1-5 pm, one Saturday a month (usually the first), and by appointment. Admission is free, and tours are available on request.

Please visit our website and like us on Facebook.

Website: www.collegeofidaho.edu/cultural-institutions/orma-j-smith-museum-natural-history

Facebook: www.facebook.com/The-Orma-J-Smith-Museum-Of-Natural-History-882013815181469/

I present to you this report and look forward to your comments and involvement.

Sincerely,

William H. Clark, Director
bclark@collegeofidaho.edu, 208-459-5507

The natural world in Idaho is full of change. Some kinds of plants and animals have become extinct. Some are threatened or endangered. Plants and animals appear where they have never been seen before. These changes affect agriculture, health, recreation, and other aspects of human life.

Museum research and collections are vital for documenting and understanding these changes!

Reference collections allow researchers to compare what's going on now with what's happened in the past.

The Museum's collections include hundreds of thousands of specimens of modern insects, birds, reptiles, fish, shellfish, mammals, other animals, and plants.

They also include fossils of plants and animals from millions of years ago, which give an even broader base for understanding the present.

Archaeological and ethnographic collections help us understand how other cultures interact with the natural world.

Fiscal year 2015 highlights:

- Continuing collection of fossil plants from the Paddock Valley, Payette Lake, and Emmett areas
- Continuing curation of archaeological artifacts from the Jump Creek Site
- Collecting beetles from hot springs in the Boise River Basin
- Studying beetles associated with gophers at Bruneau Dunes
- Adding to more than ten years of annual collections from Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge
- Continuing study of the biodiversity of the deserts of Baja California, Mexico
- Research on insects at Idaho National Laboratory



Collecting fossils . . .



. . . and aquatic "bugs"



Analyzing data

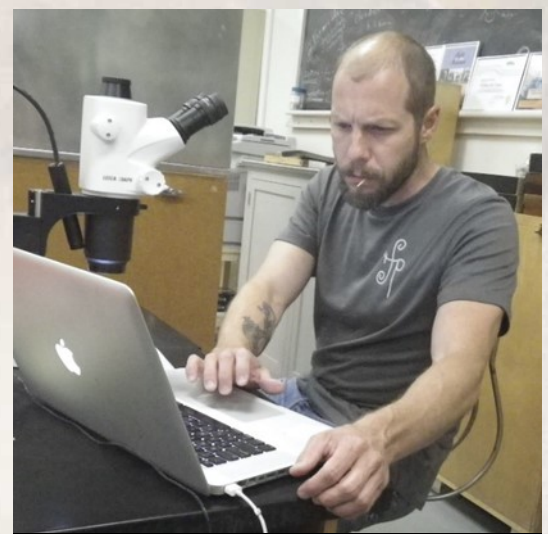


Curated specimens

Museum capabilities and research collaborations are growing to meet the needs of the future.

Fiscal Year 2015 highlights:

- The Museum welcomed two new research staff members with expertise in entomology and botany.
- The Museum sponsored a workshop on the SPECIFY database and began the process of converting its collection records to SPECIFY. This will make the Museum's research data easier to share with other scientists worldwide.
- Museum researchers collaborated with colleagues from organizations including:
 - La Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (in Guatemala).
 - Florida State Collection of Arthropods
 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 - United States Geological Survey
 - Ohio University
 - Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, Baja California (CICESE), with which the Orma J. Smith Museum operates Museo de Artrópodos de Baja California
 - University of Costa Rica (in Costa Rica)
- The Museum loaned specimens to researchers at organizations including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, State Departments of Agriculture from Florida, Washington, and Oregon, and academic institutions including College of Western Idaho and University of Idaho
- Two Museum researchers attended a conference and worked with colleagues in Colombia
- A Museum curator was invited to participate in archaeological fieldwork in the Valley of Kings (Egypt).



Visiting researchers working in Museum



SPECIFY database training workshop

“38 Minus” exhibit

The 38 Minus exhibit celebrates Idaho’s native fishes and emphasizes the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems for the fishes to survive.

The exhibit features a collection of unique paper relief sculptures by Idaho artist and river guide Lonnie Hutson. To create the exhibit, Hutson spent three years tracking down specimens of each of the 38 fish species native to Idaho and casting them in handmade paper.

Some of the fish species could no longer be found in nature, so Hutson used specimens from the collections of the Orma J. Smith Museum.

38 Minus is a traveling exhibit organized by the University of Idaho’s Pritchard Art Gallery. **Its appearance in Caldwell was co-sponsored by the Orma J. Smith Museum, The College of Idaho, and The College’s Rosenthal Gallery. The Art Department at The College of Idaho was also instrumental in making the exhibit possible.**

Additional financial support was provided by the Idaho Commission on the Arts, American Fisheries Society—Western Division, American Fisheries Society—Idaho Chapter, Mr. William H. Clark, and Dr. Sean D. Farley.



Setting up exhibit



Exhibit announcement postcard

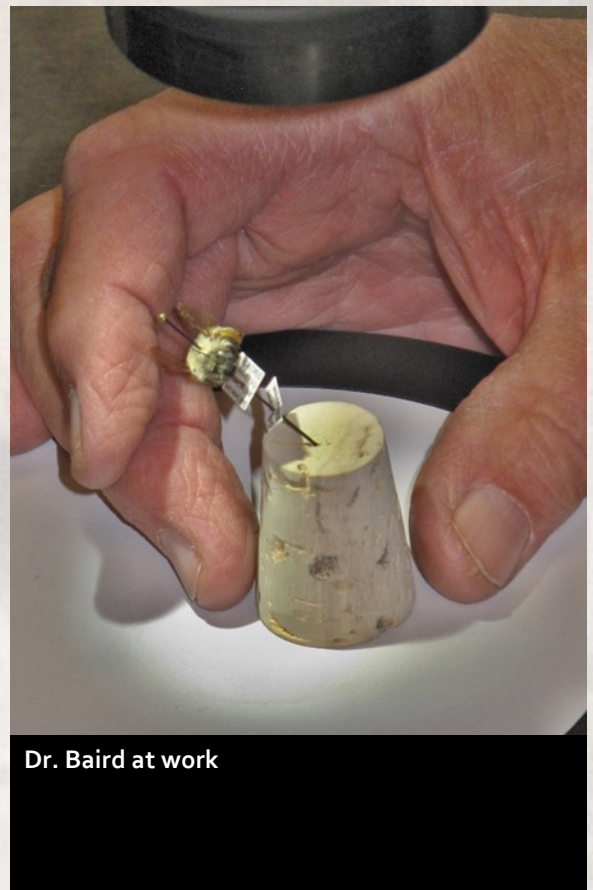
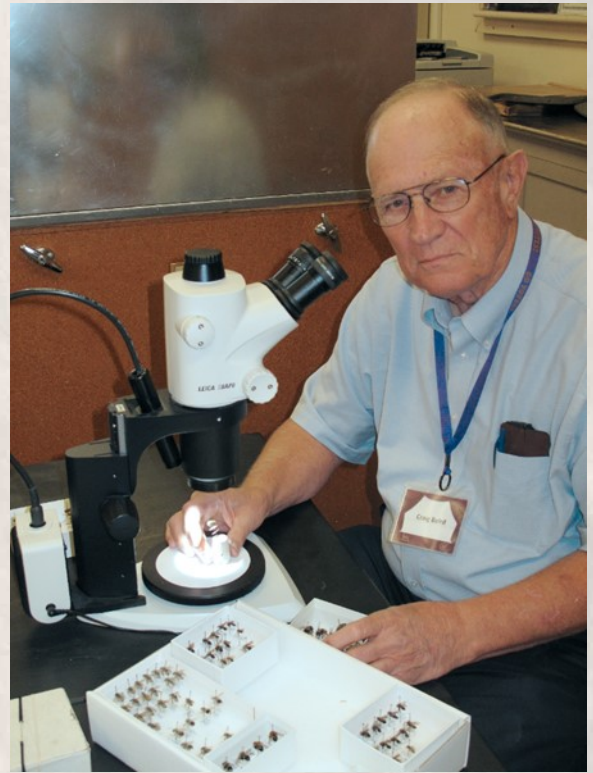


Paper relief sculpture of Coho salmon

2015 Volunteer of the Year: Dr. Craig R. Baird

For contributions including:

- Opening and staffing the Museum every Friday afternoon for several years
- Representing the Museum to the public on numerous occasions
- Demonstrating a consistently outstanding level of knowledge in curation of the Museum's insect and spider collections
- Collecting and donating numerous specimens of insects from the United States and Africa to the Museum



Dr. Baird at work



Dr. Ron Bitner (member of the Museum's Board of Directors) presented the award at the "Night at the Museum" event (an annual event sponsored by the Museum as part of Homecoming at The College of Idaho). Other activities included a public lecture by Dr. Barbara Ertter, a tour of the Museum, and a wine tasting.

Education

Student interns and volunteers from The College of Idaho spent more than 700 hours learning skills needed for scientific, research, and museum careers. **Seven current and former interns and volunteers were members of the 2015 graduating class at The College of Idaho.**

A **College of Idaho student** received a grant from the Northwest Scientific Association to carry out research on trout genetics with a Museum staff member.

Art and biology classes from **The College of Idaho, College of Western Idaho,** and **Treasure Valley Community College** visited and used the Museum.

Several hundred students from **Vallivue and Basin School Districts, Lakeview Elementary School, Zion Christian School, Compass Public Charter School, Montessori Academy,** and **Chaparral Kinder School** visited the Museum for tours and other activities.

Museum curators helped **Boy Scouts** with merit badge activities

A Museum curator judged the regional and state-wide competitions for **National History Day**, sponsored by the Idaho State Historical Society.



College of Idaho student intern working with Museum collections



Curator helping Boy Scouts earn merit badges



Curator teaching visitors about butterflies

Public outreach

A Museum Curator led nationally recognized birding activities for the blind and visually impaired

Staff members gave talks at events including:

- Idaho Archaeology Month
- Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Idaho Academy of Science
- Sandhill Crane Festival
- Water Quality Workshop (invited keynote address)
- Museum work days (monthly public presentations)

As in past years, the Museum sponsored the annual **4th of July Boise Front Butterfly Count**.

The Museum continued its **co-sponsorship of Bug Day** at the Boise Botanical Garden. The event featured an Ask-An-Entomologist table staffed by Museum entomologists, a large insect exhibit featuring Museum specimens, and items from the Museum gift shop. About 1200 people visited the event.

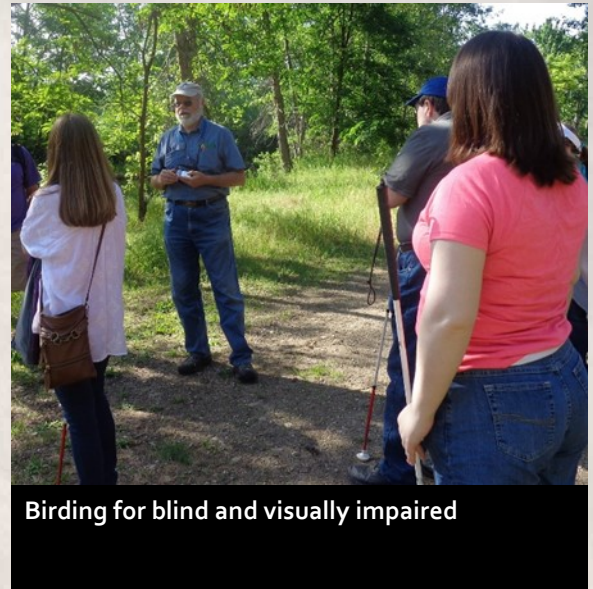
Exhibits at **BioBlitz 2015** included the Museum's reference collection of insects collected at Deer Flat over a period of more than ten years. About 200 people attended.

A Museum curator led **fish identification workshops** for the United States Geological Survey and other organizations.

Museum staff members met with members of the **Idaho Master Naturalists** (a program of the Idaho Fish and Game Department).

A Museum entomologist was influential in convincing Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter to proclaim June 15-21, 2015, as State Pollinator Week.

A Museum curator became a consultant for a popular archaeology magazine.



Birding for blind and visually impaired



Butterfly identified at Butterfly Count



Museum booth at BioBlitz 2015

Public lunchtime seminars at Museum work days

July 12, 2014: "Interesting butterflies of Idaho" and "Training for the 4J Butterfly Count"

Dr. Paul Castrovillo (Curator of Lepidoptera)

August 2, 2014: "More dead things from Idaho"

Dr. Patrick Fields (Curator of Paleontology and Research Associate, Paleobotany)

September 6, 2014: "500 years of Bolivian mammalogy"

Teresa Tarifa (Research Associate, Mammals)

October 4, 2014: "Guam above and below water"

Richard A. Salisbury (Associate Curator of Mollusca)

November 1, 2014: "Ground squirrel translocation"

Dr. Eric Yensen (Curator of Mammals)

December 6, 2014: "State of the climate: current scientific understanding on climate change"

Cynthia L. Bratz (Bratz Environmental Engineering)

January 3, 2015: "Pterosaurs: flying reptiles"

Steve Bouffard (Curator of Birds)

February 7, 2015: "Idaho State Department of Agriculture's war on invasive insects"

Dr. Paul Castrovillo (Idaho Department of Agriculture and Curator of Lepidoptera)

March 7, 2015: "Tropical arthropods, big, bizarre, and beautiful"

Dr. Richard Whitten (University of Costa Rica)

April 4, 2015: "Biodiversity of ground dwelling spiders in a Boise River riparian habitat"

Ben Simko (Oregon State University)

May 2, 2015: "Brief history of Idaho Tempskya" (in connection with Idaho Archaeology Month)

Howard Emry (Curator of Paleontology)

June 6, 2015: "35 million years of beaver evolution and climate change"

Nathan E. Carpenter (Curator of Paleontology and Research Associate)

Selected research publications

Paul E Blom and **William H. Clark** (2014) Size variation in *Phobetus sleeperi* Hardy with description of the female from Baja California, Mexico, observations on the type locality, and comparisons with *Phobetus desertus* Blom & Clark (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae), *Giornale Italiano de Entomologia*, 13 (59): 417-428

William J. Nance, Shawn Roberts, Mark G. Plew (2014) A report on archaeological excavations at Jump Creek #1 (10OE 3686) Southwest Idaho, Special Publications, Center for Applied Archaeological Science, Boise State University

George G. Sims and **Kent Fothergill** (2014) Recent occurrences of *Nitidula flavomaculata* Rossi (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in the interior of the United States, *The Coleopterists Bulletin*, 68(3): 624-627

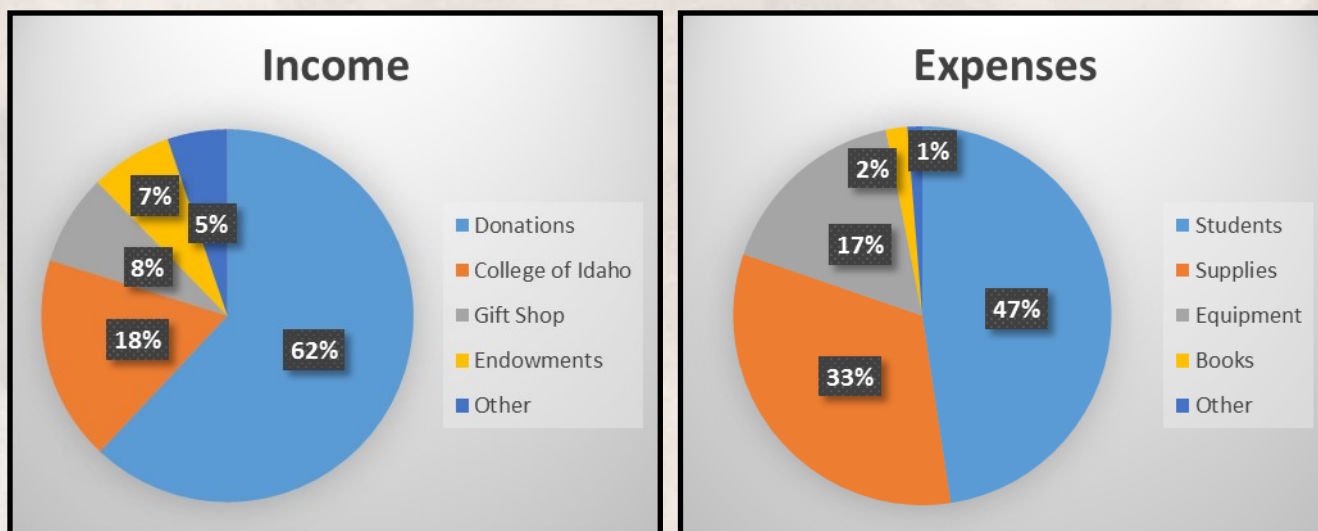
Richard L. Westcott, **William H. Clark**, and others (2014) In memory of William Frederick Barr (1920-2011), *Giornale Italiano de Entomologia* 13(59): 381-400

The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History at The College of Idaho is the only natural history museum in Southwestern Idaho. It provides educational services and experiences for students at The College of Idaho and other educational institutions throughout the area. It serves the public through outreach events and by providing expert scientists to answer questions and make presentations. It serves researchers worldwide with its unique reference collections. Essentially all labor is provided by volunteers and student interns.

Although the Museum is open to the public and admission is free, it had about 800 visitors in Fiscal Year 2015. This is far fewer people than visit other museums in the area. To expand visitor opportunities, the Museum needs a modern exhibit area, upgraded storage capabilities, better publicity and marketing, and funding for staff to care for collections and enhance public access to exhibits.

The Museum is supported by the community. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Museum benefited from at least 4000 hours of volunteer labor, with some people traveling hundreds of miles to volunteer at the Museum.

Financial summary



These figures summarize the Museum's income and expenses based on a total budget of ~\$14,000 for Fiscal Year 2015. They do not include "in kind" donations such as specimens, literature, and supplies. Donations from individuals and corporations provided most of the income. Other sources of income included financial support from The College of Idaho, income from the Museum's gift shop, and interest from endowments. Salaries and benefits for student assistants accounted for about half of the expenses. The remaining major expenses were for supplies and equipment for curation and research, and for outreach activities.

We would particularly like to thank our donors: J. Frank and Pauline D. Bales, Bitner Vineyards, Stephen H. Bouffard, Carl Cannon Estate, Nathan E. Carpenter, Sue A. Carver, Armand Chichmanian, William H. and Mary E. Clark, Cynthia J. Clark, Peter L. Comanor, Sean D. Farley, Billie A. Farley, Alan and Patricia O. Gillogly, Dr. Robert F. Graves, MD, Idaho Power Company, Dawn E. Janney, Kreizenbeck Constructors, Wayne Lewis, Razoo Foundation, James K. Ryan, Jennifer L. Sampson, Julia T. Sankey, Stephanie Shank, Gerald R. Smith, Francine Storey, David M. and Valerie A. Ward, Nancy Weber, Richard L. Westcott, James T. and Thelma M. Wolcott, Eric Yensen and Teresa Tarifa.



Board of Directors, calendar year 2015: (l to r) Dave Cannamela, Billie Ann Farley (Secretary), Dr. Barbara Ertter (2016 Chair), Dr. Eric Yensen, Dr. Ron Bitner, Bill Clark (Museum Director), Jack Cafferty. Not shown: Dr. Chris Walser (2015 Chair).

Gift Shop Manager: Geri Van Curen

Outreach: Kinga Britschgi (Tour Coordinator), Jan Summers Duffy (Facebook administrator), Billie Ann Farley, Dr. Dawn E. Janney (Webmistress)

Student interns: Simon Boycott, Will Callahan, Sarah de Leon, Hannah Dixon, Krista Fennell, Caitlin Indart, Courtney Indart, Shandee Tachick

Curators and Research Associates: Dr. Craig R. Baird, Dr. Ron Bitner, Dr. Paul Blom, Stephen H. Bouffard, Nathan E. Carpenter, Dr. Paul Castrovillo, William H. Clark, Janet L. Summers Duffy, Howard Emry, Dr. Barbara Ertter, Dr. Sean Farley, Dr. Patrick F. Fields, Dr. Alan R. Gillogly, Dr. David H. Greigor, Dr. James B. (Ding) Johnson, Wayne Lewis, Steven J. Lysne, William J. Nance, James Pike, Dr. James K. Ryan, Richard A. Salisbury, Dr. Julia T. Sankey, Stephanie Shank, Dr. Gerald R. Smith, Dr. Ralph F. Stearley, Teresa Tarifa, Leland Thames, Dr. Chris Walser, Dr. David Ward, Jr., Gerald E. Wood, Dr. Eric Yensen, Dr. Donald W. Zaroban

Annual report written by Dr. Dawn E. Janney and Museum staff members, with assistance from the Board of Directors and The College of Idaho, May 29, 2016.

Photography: Hill Street Studios, Dr. Paul Castrovillo, William H. Clark, Jan Summers Duffy, Dr. Al Gillogly, Dr. Dawn Janney, Dr. Ralph Stearley, Dr. David Ward, Jr.

Website: www.collegeofidaho.edu/cultural-institutions/orma-j-smith-museum-natural-history

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Please contact the Director (Bill Clark, bclark@collegeofidaho.edu, 208-459-5507) if you want more information, or to volunteer or make a donation.



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