

2018 Annual Field Trip - Lower Columbia chapter



Yvonne Addington fills us in on the display of mastodon and other mega-fauna bones in the Tualatin public library

We started our field trip at the Tualatin library where the bones of a number of ice age mega-fauna are on display. Yvonne Addington led us through the displays and explained some of her role in arranging to have the bones in Tualatin where they were found.



The Tualatin River Greenway Trail section called "a walk through time" with blue glass indicating the Ice Age and mastodon footprints in their natural stride



At the start of the Greenway Trail we lined up to hear from the first volunteer docent as he gave an introduction to the trail and what we would see

After the library we took a stroll on the Tualatin River Greenway Trail where we were instructed by several members of the Rivers of Life Youth Tourism Corp. who volunteered to be docents on the trail. We viewed signs, erratic boulders, casts of the mega-fauna and granite insets with maps and timelines.

This \$3.8 million trail was put in a couple years ago as part of Tualatin's ice age identity as well as the \$230,000 bronze statue of a young mastodon and a stylized image of the boy who dug it up only about a mile from where the bronze is today. Most of the actual skeleton of the mastodon is now on display in the library.



Interpretive kiosk symbolizing icebergs with explanations and even a sample of the kinds of erratics found in the area and on display on the trail



The "I Wonder" bronze mastodon and boy in front of the Cabellas store in the Nyberg Rivers shopping center

After viewing the statue we went to the neighboring town of West Linn. At Fields Bridge Park we walked

the nature trail with its three kiosks revealing the story of the ice age floods and the Willamette Meteorite that landed not far from there when the iceberg it was carried in was grounded on the hillside.



Kiosk in Fields Bridge Park with computer generated exact replica of the Willamette Meteorite



Gary Kleinknecht gave information about mastodons and mammoths



Rick Thompson and Scott Burns with 1/5th scale replica of the Willamette Meteorite at Fields Bridge Park



The entire field trip group minus a few volunteers who were off preparing for their role



Willamette Falls from the I-205 overlook



Men from the Rivers of Life Youth Tourism Corp. - our guides on the "Walk Through Time" Greenway Trail

From Fields Bridge Park we traveled east on Willamette Falls Drive over the gravel bar that the town of Willamette was built on. We then stopped at the I-205 overlook to see Willamette Falls. This Falls is the second largest in the United States by volume

after Niagara Falls. Since this has been a fairly dry year it was easy to see the basalt rocks that the river cascades over.



Lower Columbia chapter treasurer, Charles Hall, enjoys a lunch that one person called "a banquet"

After lunch at Tualatin Community Park we took a short drive to the Tualatin Heritage Center; home of the Tualatin History Society. It is here where the molar and tusk from the Tualatin mastodon is housed as well as a collection of ice rafted boulders from the surrounding area. Yvonne Addington, former president of the Tualatin Historical Society, described the display of news articles, photographs and book covers telling the story of the Center and the ice age features. Our next stop, the Tualatin Commons, has a man-made lake with undulating hand-railing representing the wave action of the Ice Age floods and glass drinking fountains representing icebergs in those floods along with several ice rafted boulders; one being an argillite.



We gathered around the argillite erratic near the Tualatin Commons Lake



Light shines through a glass drinking fountain



"Lake Allison" - one of three quilts with an ice age floods theme that Sally Hass displayed at the Tualatin Heritage Center during our field trip

Partly for fun and partly to see how a community can capitalize on an ice age idea we went to Ibach Park with its symbolic ice age floods play structures. The spongy blue pavement represented the water; some of it including ripples with icebergs. In the sand area children can dig for replica fossils and with the water feature they are able to make their own ice age floods through a collection of ice rafted erratics. We viewed the sign that for the last 20 years has been telling people about the ice age floods, the Willamette Meteorite, the mastodon and the local history. This award-winning park and its structures and signage was years ahead of other areas in adopting the ice age floods theme.



Play structure suggestive of the Mastodon skeleton

Between the towns of Tualatin and Sherwood there is a series of ice age flood channels that funneled the water from the Tualatin Valley into the Willamette Valley. This area is called the Tonquin Scablands. We stopped to view an erosional remnant of two basalt flows separated by a soil horizon and Coffee Lake, a kolk lake, created when two flood channels converged and formed a vortex that removed rock and soil leaving what is now a coffee-colored lake. We then drove along the largest of the 14 Tonquin Flood Channels to an area where we could get out and view that channel both north and south.



Erosional remnant in the Tonquin Scablands revealing two lava flows separated by a soil horizon.



Coffee Lake, a kolk lake formed at the convergence of two of the Tonquin Flood Channels



Looking south down the largest of the Tonquin Flood Channels



Looking north towards the Onion Flats area of the Tonquin Floods Channels. The train trestle reveals the depth of the channel itself



A few of our helpful volunteers

Thank you to all our wonderful Ice Age Floods volunteers; the City of Tualatin; Tualatin Parks & Recreation Dept; Tualatin Chamber of Commerce; Tualatin Library; Tualatin Historical Society; Rivers of Life Youth Tourism Corp; Pacific Power & Light; the City of West Linn; Scott Burns, Professor Emeritus, Portland State University; and Rick Thompson, President, Lower Columbia chapter; for making this field trip a huge success.