

## Coos County Historical Society Annual Award Winners

\* The **Nathan Douthit Local Historian Award**, named in his honor in 2017, is given annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to the preservation of history in our area. **Douthit** was a history graduate of Harvard and the University of California, Berkeley, who came to Coos County in 1969 and taught history at Southwestern Oregon Community College for the next 28 years. Besides his teaching career, Douthit was active in the preservation of local history. He served the Coos Historical Society for many years and also became a founder and officer of the Marshfield Sun Printing Museum. He has authored several books on local history. Two of them, *A Guide to South Coast History: Traveling the Jedediah Smith Trail* and *The Coos Bay Region: Life on a Coastal Frontier* are still valuable resources used by many history students today.

+ The **Martha Butler Service Award** is given to a person or persons who have provided exceptional assistance or service to the Coos County Historical Society or museum. Mrs. Butler made a substantial donation to the Coos County Historical Society in 1999 that provided the seed money to build the new Coos History Museum by 2015. The award was named in her honor in 2017.

# The **Mary Banks Granger Maritime History Award** is given to a person or persons who contributes to the preservation of maritime-related history. Mary, the daughter of shipbuilder Robert Banks, and the Granger Family have preserved the history of the Kruse & Banks Shipbuilding Company of North Bend and have donated generously to the museum. This award was created by the board, and named in honor of Mrs. Granger, in 2017.

- 1988        \* **George Jenkins**  
              + **James Whitty, Sr.** (posthumously)
- 1989        \* **Curt Beckham**, publication of several books and articles on South Coast history  
              + **Adam Donaldson** (posthumously)
- 1990        \* **Jesse Ott**  
              + **Itha Graham**
- 1991        \* **John Bergen**  
              + **Nellie Hoffman Palmer**
- 1992        \* **Jim Norman** and **Victor West** (maritime historian and officer of the CCHS)  
              + **A.J. Sweet** (posthumously) and **Delia Luckey**
- 1993        \* **Ellen Stinchfield** (posthumously)  
              + **Dixie Sheldon**
- 1994        \* **Harold Ott** (posthumously)  
              + **Don Matson**
- 1995        \* **Bob & Ivene Pittam**  
              + **Dr. Ennis Keizer**
- 1996        \* **John Butler**  
              + **A. W. (Bill) Sweet**
- 1997        \* **Verlin Hermann**, many years of service as a CCHS board member  
              + **Mary Capps**
- 1998        \* **Merle Eickworth Martin**  
              + **Helen Barton**

- 1999 \* **Reg Pullen**, BLM archeologist, historian of local Native Americans and Bandon  
+ **Barbara McKeown**
- 2000 + **Ann Collins** and **Kathy Grossman**, both CCHS board members
- 2001 + **Ann Kopyy**, director of the museum and history contributor to local publications
- 2002 \* **Dow Beckham**, contributions to historical research on the South Coast, author of several local history books  
+ **Sue Townsend**, voluntary exhibit preparation at the museum for many years
- 2003 \* **George** and **Dorothy Vaughan**, Community Arts Stewardship  
+ **Olga Crnkovich**, hours of volunteer service to the museum and Society
- 2004 \* **Nathan Douthit**, books on South Coast history and service to the society as a Trustee, a history professor at SWOCC, and preservation of the Sun Printing Museum. Donated rights of publication of one of his books to the CCHS  
\* **Ron** and **Judy Knox**, for their many years of service directing programs at the Coquille River Museum in Bandon
- 2005 \* **Glen** and **Jean Olson**, their contribution to public education of South Coast history and work with the Myrtle Point Logging Museum  
+ **Frank Rood**, many years of service and generosity to the Society
- 2006 \* **Lionel Youst**, author of several books on local history; frequent local history speaker  
\* **Bill Lansing**, author of several books on local history and his assistance with fundraising for the Coos Historical & Maritime Museum project  
+ **Sally Prouty**, setting up CCHS elementary education program and her work as a trustee
- 2007 \* **Richard** and **Judith Wagner**, contributions to the preservation of local history through their authorship of several books about North Bend and guided historical walks  
+ **Carol Murray**, contributions to CCHS, especially organizing the museum gift store
- 2008 \* **Mary Granger**, preservation of maritime Coos County history  
+ **Phil Davison**, service to the CCHS by conducting two “Antique Roadshow” appraisal type fundraisers, his work as a trustee, and work on the collections committee
- 2009 \* **Jon Littlefield**, contributions to Coos County history through his research and publication of his writing  
+ **Joan Greif**, assistance to the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum as a volunteer with collections and *Waterways* newsletter editor for several years
- 2010 \* **Mapril Combs**, significant contribution to the preservation of history in our area, especially the Coos Wagon Road region  
+ **Joy Parker**, for arranging her SWOCC English students to help with scanning and photo descriptions at the museum and for encouraging student research on local history
- 2011 \* **Stephen Dow Beckham**, for his local historical research, his publication of many books contributing to the understanding of South Coast history, and his assistance to the CCHS in the development of the new Coos Historical and Maritime Museum  
+ **Kate Sharples**, an organizer and presenter for several years in the CCHS 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade education program

- 2012
- \* **Boyd Stone**, contributions to the Preservation of the History of the South Coast thru his research & writing of several history books, and newspaper columns, esp. about the Coquille River Valley
  - + **Stan Sweet**, middle school teacher who has organized his students for several years to help as docents in our 5<sup>th</sup> grade education program
  - + **Don Ivy**, cultural director of the Coquille Indian Tribe who has brought Coquille Tribal culture to the forefront and who helped with our 4<sup>th</sup> grade education program
- 2013
- \* **Hal and Patti Strain**, honored for their contributions to the Preservation of the History of the South Coast thru their research & writing of several history books about the Coquille River Valley and founding the Coquille Valley Historical Society Museum.
  - + **John and Teri Whitty**. For many years John served the Society with “pro-bono” legal advice. Teri served on the CCHS Board for many years. Both John and Teri were key members of the CH&MC fundraising team.
  - + **Vickie Wiese** was honored for her tremendous ability as the museum’s Collection Manager. She created many exhibits at the CH&MM and organized a system for scanning, describing, and archiving our image collection. She has helped many authors with research and put our collection on a very professional foundation.
  - + **Annie Donnelly** served as the CCHS Executive Director from 2005 to 2013. Annie’s grant writing ability brought in a large amount of donations for the new Maritime Center. She also coordinated work with the architects, exhibit designers, permitting agencies, and builders to make the CH&MC a reality.
- 2014
- \* **Eric Kohler and Pat Cross**: two regular museum volunteers that put in hundreds of hours scanning and describing photographs to preserve the history of the region.
  - + **Dennis and Janet Beetham** made a significant financial contribution to the new Coos History Museum that helped the Society match a grant and gave a second donation as construction and exhibit design were reaching a critical stage.
- 2015
- \* **Steve and Jeanne Woods**: authors of an important book [*Oh, Pilot*] about local bay pilots.
  - + **John Engels**: longtime volunteer for the Coos History Museum.
  - + **Cory Smith**: former board member and longtime volunteer for the museum.
  - + **Angie Duvall**: contributions to the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade education program.
  - + **Valerie Caskey**: setting up/managing the new museum store and volunteer coordinator.
  - + **Scott Partney**: excellent work as general contractor for the new Coos History Museum.
- 2016
- \* **Jerry Phillips**: board member, author Elliott State Forest book, and history speaker.
  - + **Barbara Taylor**: many years of service as CHM board member and treasurer.
- 2017
- \* **Jim Proehl**: Bandon historian and Bandon historical society officer.
  - + **Karen O’Donnell**: many years of service as CHM board member and treasurer.
  - # **Mary Banks Granger**: for her preservation of materials related to the Kruse & Banks Shipyards.
- 2018
- \* **Cricket Soules**: for her work researching, preserving, and organizing the maintenance of the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery.
  - + **Men and Women of the U.S. Coast Guard (Sector North Bend)**: for their physical assistance in moving and maintaining the CHM collections and for development of CHM exhibits.
  - # **Richard Whitwer and Thomas Hines**: for their research, presentations, and exhibit development on lighthouses and maritime history.

- 2019
- \* **Andie Jensen:** Andie moved to Coos Bay in 2007 and soon thereafter began researching and writing about local history. He has authored eight books that have contributed to our understanding of local history.
  - + **Tom Orsi.** Tom volunteers both at the Bandon Historical Museum and the Coos History Museum. At the CHM, he has helped clean and organize our exhibit hall, volunteered at the front desk and has been a trained volunteer host in our Lansing Research Library. In addition, Tom is the leader of the South Coast Striders and has developed and promoted annual history walks in North Bend, Bandon, and Coos Bay.
  - # **Tom Leahy.** Tom is one of the founders and officers of the Coos Bay Boat Building Center which has increased the knowledge of our local maritime heritage by encouraging hands-on maritime construction and preservation of local maritime history. Tom has been the driving force of annual visits of the Tall Ships to Coos Bay each spring. Tom was also helpful in acquiring and repairing one of the major outdoor exhibits on the CHM plaza: the *Welcome*.
- 2020
- \* **Bert Dunn.** inspired to raise money to digitize historic newspapers from his hometown of Coquille, Dunn helped raise thousands of dollars and now decades of Coquille newspapers are easily accessible and searchable by the public as a result. In 2019, Bert and two co-authors researched the history of Coquille and published *Images of America: Coquille, Oregon*.
  - + **Arlene Roblan.** Arlene became a CHM Board member in 2014 and served as Education Committee Chair for six years. With her team, Arlene put a great effort into re-designing and updating the museum's education program. Arlene has also done wonderful work on museum board fundraising events and has volunteered with other community organizations.
  - + **Toni Ann Brend.** Toni Ann had deep roots here with generations of Coquille Tribal ancestors. Toni Ann served over 17 years on her tribal council and for years taught young the cultural artistry of her tribe. She served several terms on the board of the Coos History Museum helped out with the museum's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Indian Education program, headed the Governance Committee, and produced fine crafts for museum fundraisers.
  - # **Roger Ott.** Roger grew up in an Allegany family that worked on the Coos River for several generations. Roger has often shared his collection of historic photos of the "Mosquito Fleet" with the public. He has made numerous presentations on the history of Coos River water transportation for the Coos History Museum, the Coos Bay Public Library, and the Coos County OSU Extension Service and contributed to a video history of the Elliott State Forest for the SWOCC Forestry Department.
- 2021
- \* **Steven Greif** is a long time museum trustee and volunteer. He volunteers at the front desk, works with the CHM education programs, and serves on the exhibit committee. Steve has published a book on the history of North Bend High School and teaches local history classes for Museum as a fundraiser for the CHM.
  - + **Bill Mast** has many years of service as a trustee and volunteer. He authored a book on Coos County agricultural history and conducts history tours in the summer months to places of interest in the region. The beautiful myrtlewood benches in the museum were donated by Bill.
  - + **Don Ivy** was a valuable asset to the museum as a trustee and a representative of the Coquille Tribe. He helped create the museum's unique Welcome Gallery. His legacy of leadership, community spirit, and service to others is felt by many.
  - # **Bob Granger, John Granger, and Sue Graves** are descendants of the Kruse & Banks family of North Bend shipbuilders. They created a website of this local family's shipbuilding history and have generously donated artifacts to the maritime section of the museum.
- 2022
- \* **Mary Schamehorn** saved thousands of photographs of the Bandon area from destruction and has written a weekly "As I See It" local history column several Coos County newspapers for many years. She has also served on the Bandon History Museum board.

\* **Zachary Stocks** served as the director of the Oregon Black Pioneers museum and helped the CHM with Alonzo Tucker events and the museum's first Juneteenth event. He also initiated the construction of an Oregon State Historical Marker at the diverse mining community of Beaver Hill.

+ **Nancy Price** was once an employee of the history museum at its North Bend location. Later in life, she became a cheerful front desk volunteer for several years when the new Coos History Museum opened in Coos Bay in 2015. She also took on many other volunteer roles at the museum. Nancy died in March of 2022 and this award was made posthumously.

+ **Carol Ventgen** joined the Coos Historical Society board of trustees in 2012 after retiring as director of the Coos Bay Public Library. She served several terms as board president in the crucial years of construction and opening of the new Coos History Museum in Coos Bay. Since the museum opened to the public in 2015 Carol, along with her husband Mike Perkins, have been a welcoming volunteer presence each week at the museum's front desk.

# **The Coos Bay Boat Building Center** is recognized for its efforts to further public education about maritime life and create positive economic benefits for our community from 2009 until its closure in 2022. The Center held numerous canoe and boat building classes; children's wood working events; paddle board, oar and skateboard construction; participated in the STEM program with School District 9; and did skills training for AYA students. Perhaps most notably, the Center hosted the annual spring visits of the Tall Ships.