

Photo exhibit traces pioneer travels

Infrared prints follow journeys of James G. Swan, flint knappers show off skills

ILWACO, Wash. — The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum presents the special exhibition "Swan's Land: Photographs by Rich Bergeman." There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday May 13. The exhibition will be on view through July 13.

In 2015, while an artist in residence at Willapa Bay AiR in Oysterville, photographer Rich Bergeman retraced the travels of Washington pioneer James G. Swan. A native of Ohio and an Oregonian since 1976, Bergeman has been a writer, editor and educator during his journalistic career, and an exhibiting fine art photographer for the past 30 years. Much of that time has been devoted to exploring the fringes of the Pacific Northwest in search of forgotten histories and vanishing places.

Using an infrared digital camera, Bergeman photographed several of the sites frequented by Swan, a celebrated adventurer who lived on Willapa Bay (then known as Shoalwater Bay) in the middle of the 1800s. Using Swan's 1857 book "The Northwest Coast; Or, Three Years' residence in Washington Territory" as his guide, Bergeman photographed many of the places described by Swan.

The exhibit features more than 20 black-and-white infrared prints taken "from the top of the Bay to the mouth of the Columbia" as well as other historically significant sites on the Long



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Baby Island" by Rich Bergeman from the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum's new photo exhibit "Swan's Land," which follows the travels of Long Beach Peninsula pioneer James G. Swan.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Leadbetter Point" by Rich Bergeman.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

An obsidian object made by flint knapping by Aaron Webster.

Beach Peninsula and the Washington shore of the Columbia River.

One reason Bergeman

chose to photograph the Swan project with an infrared camera is that the landscape around Willapa Bay

is dominated by water and sky, and infrared renders such scenes more dramatically than traditional black-and-white. Another, and more whimsical reason, he said, "is that when on the trail of a ghost, it seems appropriate to use a medium that captures what is, essentially, invisible light."

In addition to the exhibition "Swan's Land: Photographs by Rich Bergeman," the museum will present a special installation, "Beyond the Point: Contemporary Knapping and the Object."

Making stone tools is among the oldest forms of artistic creation and the craft of flint knapping can become art of the highest level. Contemporary flint knappers are artists who use traditional techniques to go beyond the point to create objects of great craftsmanship and form.

Aaron Webster, a Washington State Park's Interpreter, is one of these artists. With his series of fish sculptures, viewers can see how Webster's skill allows the form of the fish to emerge from the obsidian with a shimmering, undulating surface that is reminiscent of light reflecting off water.

Among the other artists featured in "Beyond the Point" will be Emory Coons, Goode Jones, "Woody" Woodside and the Danish artist Sofus Stenak. All bring new forms to light with this ancient technique.

The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum thanks the Port of Peninsula for their sponsorship of this exhibition. Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum is located at 115 S.E. Lake St. For more information, call 360-642-3446 or visit www.columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org

Great White Tail Run is set for Saturday

This Washington race includes 10K, 5K and 2-mile distance courses

SKAMOKAWA, Wash. — The 32nd annual Great White Tail Run, sponsored by Wahkiakum 4-H, will be held Saturday, May 14. The event begins at 10 a.m. in Skamokawa Vista Park, and the races travel through the Julia Butler Hansen National Refuge

The event includes 10K, 5K and 2-mile courses. Male and female winners in each distance will be recognized, and the top three finishers in each age division will receive ribbons.

Preregistration is encouraged. Preregistration without a T-shirt is \$10; preregistration with a shirt is \$20. Registration on the day of the run costs \$12 without a shirt and \$25 with a shirt. T-shirts are only guaranteed for

those who registered by May 1.

Add \$1 to your registration fee if you are bringing your dog and want to compete for an award in this division. Dog rules must be followed and include socialized dogs only, dogs at least six months old with current vaccinations, and they must be on a leash at all times.

Family and youth group discounts are available: The first two entries of immediate family or a group are regular price, and each additional entry is \$3 off the regular price.

Run-day registration and preregistration packet pickup begins at 8:30 a.m. at Skamokawa Vista Park.

Mail entries need to be received by May 13. Entry forms can be found locally or requested by emailing carol.ervest@gmail.com.

This event is a fundraiser for the Wahkiakum 4-H program. For further information, call 360-465-2275 or 360-795-3278.

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